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## IBM plans computers based on MPP technology

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS Machines (IBM) is developing powerful super computers based upon massively parallel processing (MPP) technology.

The company said yesterday it had established a new laboratory dedicated to bringing the new technology rapidly to market.

Cray Research, the leading supercomputer manufacturer, also revealed this week that it was developing MPP computers, based upon a powerful new microprocessor chip designed by Digital Equipment.

Unlike traditional super computers which are based upon one or a few custom-designed powerful processors, MPP computers share complex computing tasks among hundreds or even thousands of the same microprocessor chips that are used in computer workstations.

Until recently, this approach to achieving very high speed computing was largely experimental. Worldwide sales of MPP supercomputer totalled only about \$100m last year, less than one-tenth of the total super computers market, according to industry estimates.

However, massively parallel machines are widely expected to eventually achieve speeds of almost 1,000bn calculations per second, outpacing traditional

"vector" super computers.

The endorsement of IBM and Cray Research will bring MPP into the mainstream of computing. Some industry analysts predict that MPP sales could reach 50 percent of the total supercomputer market by the late 1990s.

The challenge that MPP tech-

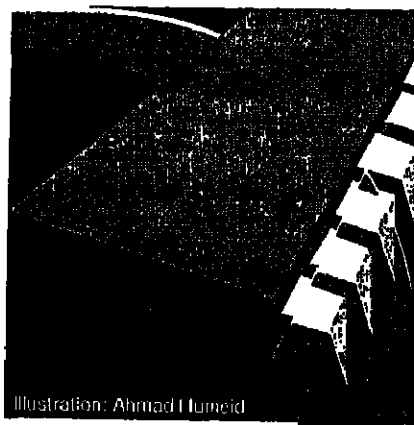


Illustration: Ahmad Humeid

nology poses to traditional supercomputing technology was demonstrated this week when Mr Seymour Cray, the best-known designer of super computers, announced that his company, Cray Computer (unrelated to Cray Research), must scale back plans to develop Cray-3, a machine that would rival MPP performance, after losing its lone customer.

IBM will base its MPP sys-

tems upon the reduced instruction set computing (RISC) microprocessors that it employs in desktop workstations. The company said it planned to build "scalable" parallel machines capable of performance in the range of hundreds of gigaflops (billions of floating point calculations per second).

Ultimately, IBM aims to achieve teraflops (1,000bn of floating-point calculations per second) performance.

"Our key customers have told us that they need 'scalable' systems that enable them to build up performance on an incremental basis — as their individual needs allow," said Mr Irving Wladawsky-Berger, assistant general manager for IBM's supercomputing, Enterprise Systems' line of business. "We plan to get these machines to market as quickly as possible."

Cray Research said that its first MPP systems would be introduced next year and that they would be based upon Digital Equipment's 'Alpha' microprocessor chip.

The device is twice as fast as any other microprocessor in the world, Cray officials said. Digital engineers are scheduled to reveal details of the Alpha chip at a technical conference later this month.

# INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

## Minicomputers: On their way out?

When we all started to learn about computers we were taught that they were divided into microcomputers, minicomputers and mainframes. I never really could tell the difference between the words micro and mini. Little did I know that the whole computer industry was asking itself the same question several years later.

It's no secret that microcomputers are not as much in demand as they were five or six years ago. The reason is simple, yet so ironic. Thanks to microprocessors doubling in power every year and shrinking technology PCs are taking over. The emergence of the RISC (Reduced Instruction Set Computing) processor lying at the heart of new RISC-based machines called workstations is something which has recently left minicomputer, and even mainframe, manufacturers with a lot to worry about.

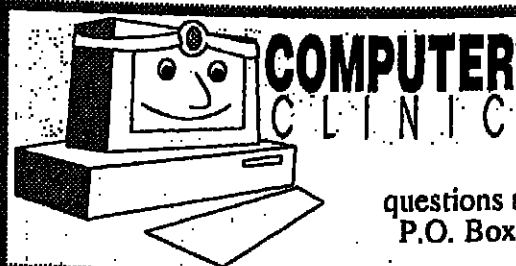
This feeling is evident today in the latest direction in the industry towards slashing the prices of minicomputer systems. Industry leaders like IBM, Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC), Hewlett Packard and Data General are decreasing the prices of their midrange systems (minicomputers) while heavily promoting smaller systems also capable of high performance.

Taking a look at figures and statistics of the midrange systems' market shows that the industry grew by 4 percent in the year 1991. Midrange systems are usually priced between \$10,000 and \$1 million. IBM have recently decreased the prices of its rather famous AS/400 model and DEC have answered to this by slashing the prices of their VAX 6000 by 37 percent. So that should tell you something about the fierce competition going on in the industry. Still, revenues from the midrange systems market are far from unsatisfactory. In fact, it would be ridiculous to completely move out of the market at the moment. Especially considering that IBM, for instance, sold \$5,800 million worth of midrange systems in the Middle East alone last year.

You've probably been hearing a lot about open systems. Well, they are a direct reason to blame for all this. Open systems architecture involves some sort of a new standardized hardware and software fundamentally including a RISC-based machine running a UNIX operating system capable of mixing different pieces of software and hardware from different sources with more ease. So there is some truth to the rumors going around that open systems will draw the path for the future of computing. Still I wouldn't jump to conclusions too fast, though. Why do we use minicomputers and mainframes in the first place anyway? Because they are computers with multiple processors ideally suited for networking, especially since they have huge storage abilities and are very fast. Just like PCs are moving into the seat of minicomputers, I would expect minicomputers to move into the mainframe market which is already shrinking world-wide.

So the whole process revolves around performance. If midrange systems can become smaller while offering the advantages of open systems, then minicomputers won't really cease to exist.

What is happening is a long awaited step forward in computer technology. If DEC is content with shifting their entire line of midrange systems to RISC during the next two years — completely replacing its 15 year old VAX design — there's no reason why mini users should feel unhappy. I suppose it's their right to feel slightly cheated after splashing thousands on their systems, but with prices continuing to drop and technology continuing to shrink they will pay less for more, and that is what really counts.



Is your computer giving you a headache? Send your questions and enquiries to P.O. Box 9313, Amman.

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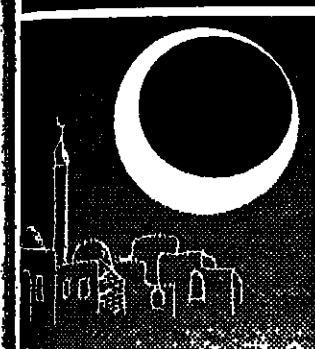
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# WEEK



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# PERSPECTIVES

AL QAD AL IKTISAD

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## News...News...News...News...News...News...News...

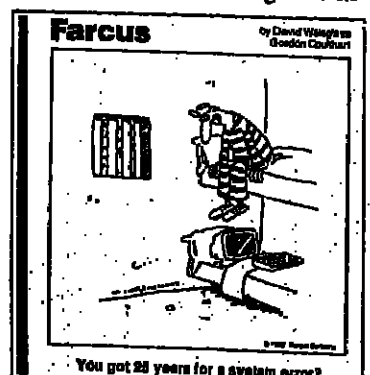
Let's take a look at the richest men in the computer world. The list is as follows:

1. William Gates (35 years), Microsoft Corp. - \$4.8 billion
2. Paul Gardener Allen, Microsoft Corp. - \$3.2 billion
3. David Packard, Hewlett Packard - \$1.7 billion
4. Steven A. Palmer, Microsoft Corp. - \$850 million
5. Armas Clifford Marcola, Apple Computer Inc. - \$670 million
6. Gordon Earl Moore Gardener Allen, Intel Inc. - \$585 million
7. Lawrence Ellison, Oracle Systems - \$365 million
8. Steven Jobs (36 years), Next & Apple - \$350 million

Computer manufacturers are going notebook crazy with the competition building up to produce lighter, more powerful machines. The hottest news is that Apple will be releasing a smaller version of the PowerBook that will weigh less than 5 pounds!

Dell Computer Corporation are also releasing a \$1,500 subnotebook that will weigh less than 4 pounds! This means that the prices of Intel Corp.'s 80386SX-based notebooks will start going down.

More alliances are on the way in the near future involving the two big giants of the computer industry who, after allying with one another, are seeking new al-



You got 88 years for a system secret?

liances with others. The latest news regards a strategic alliance to emerge between Apple and Sharp to manufacture products on Apple's behalf (just like Sony did with Apple's PowerBook notebook computer). This product will most probably be a personal organizer.

As for IBM, after declaring its purchase of the French company Bull last month, it has announced a joint venture with the brand name of IBM. This event marks IBM's return to India after leaving it 15 years ago because of constraints placed on foreign investment in the country.

Ideal systems, Apple's authorized agents in Jordan are preparing for their 1992 Apple Expo. to be held next April. The expo, is expected to reveal some pleasant surprises for Apple fans, but no further information is available for the moment.

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# JORDAN WEEK

## Coping with Ramadan

Government ministries and departments will begin work from 9:30 am to 2 pm during Ramadan, it was announced. Meanwhile, Jordanians took to the downtown markets to stock up on essential Ramadan supplies creating an unusual boom in the market. The last snow storm prevented most Jordanians from doing their Ramadan shopping, but the buying spree did not create shortages in basic supplies. Cold weather, frost and flooding have resulted in heavy losses to crops especially seasonal vegetables like cucumbers, tomatoes, squash and eggplant. Naturally prices have soared for available produce, while variety is limited. One kilo of fresh tomatoes is selling for 400 fils and the same for cucumbers. The Ministry of Supply advised Jordanians to switch to frozen vegetables and many are heading that advice.

## King offers expats a helping hand

Expatriates got another chance to pay duty on their Kuwaiti-licensed cars after they missed their 29 February deadline. The government has decided to extend the deadline until the end of April. Those who miss the second deadline will be fined 2 per cent of the fees monthly and for a maximum period of five months. Only 7800 cars of an estimated 16550 had been processed before the expiry of the February deadline. But

King Hussein on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Zaid Ben Shaker to reconsider the conditions of the returnees and study the possibility of total exemption from duty or a long-term repayment plan of the duty fees. The government is expected to announce further measures in accordance with the King's wishes within the coming days.

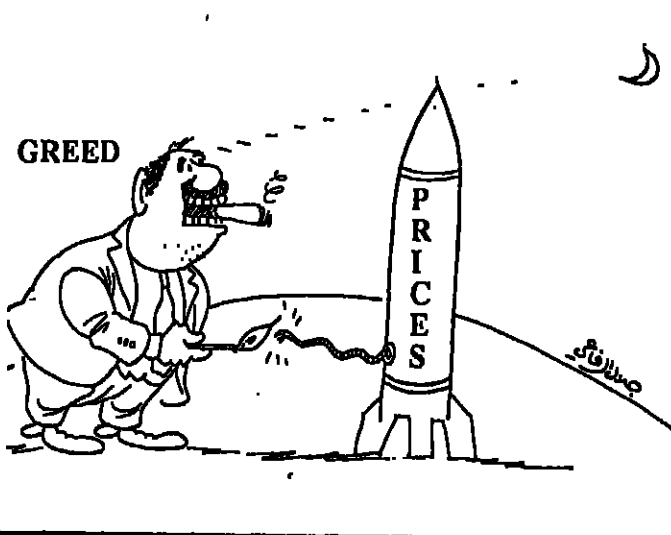
## Dealing with post-storm traffic

Ammanites are complaining about the worsening state of the inter-city roads and the long traffic lines that have taken place since the end of the last winter storm. Newspapers have been running columns and readers' letters that talk about the traffic hiccups lasting for hours from early morning to early afternoon. The worst standstills occur at the Interior Ministry Roundabout and in front of the Jerusalem Hotel on University Road. Traffic authorities say the reason is icy roads in the early morning. Schools have delayed their first sessions by at least one hour to avoid slippery roads. This in turn has created traffic congestions. Slippery roads have been blamed for pile-ups and other accidents in Amman, Salt, Irbid and southern towns.

## Not enough water!

A Ministry of Water source has estimated the total volume of rain water that fell since the beginning of the season was about 11 billion cubic meters. The national average is about 8 billion

Welcome Ramadan!!



cubic meters. But the source told Ad-Dustour daily that 85 per cent of this water is lost by evaporation and only 15 per cent is stored underground. The same source said that Jordan needs many years of good winters in order to restore the aquatic balance, which has been altered in the past few years because of over consumption. The paper quoted the source as saying that it would be wrong to assume that Jordan's acute water shortage has ended because of the exceptionally good winter we had this year.

## Storm kills two infants

Two newly-born infants died in Al Inan Hospital in Ajloun during the snow storm after emergency generators failed to restore an electric current back to the hospital. The two babies were in incubators when the whole town was blacked out. By the time another generator was brought to the hospital, the two infants were dead. Ad-Dustour daily reported.

The Ajloun District was badly hit by the storm with damages to

over 90 per cent of its olive groves. A number of residents called on the government to declare the region a catastrophe area and send in more help and assistance. Poultry and dairy farmers also reported losses. A study of the damages has been ordered.

## Paris Club gives Jordan a breather

Jordan has reached an agreement with its Paris Club creditors to re-schedule debts and interests for the period between 1992 and the middle of 1993 for ten years. Jordanian representatives flew to London on Monday to negotiate a similar deal with the London Club.

## Preparing for Haj

About 17,000 pilgrims from Jordan and the occupied territories will perform the Haj this year, the Ministry of Awqaf announced. An agreement was reached between the ministry and the Saudi authorities regarding housing and transportation facilities. This year's Haj will be in June.

## Adult polio vaccination: Better safe than sorry?

By Kate Daniels  
Star Staff Writer

OPTIMISTIC PRESS reports Tuesday showed that despite disruptive weather conditions, 87 per cent of Jordan's under-fives have now been immunized as part of the Ministry of Health's polio vaccination drive. With the campaign ending today, it is hoped that 100 per cent vaccination of their target group will have been reached.

However, despite such encouraging statistics, voices are starting to be raised as to whether the children's immunization drive will be sufficient to protect adults from the disease.

The occurrence of polio amongst adults is a rarity, but some concerned sectors of society are now arguing that the very possibility of being affected by the disease warrants vaccination measures to be taken by adults.

"Polio can affect anyone," said one doctor, who requested anonymity. "Look at US president Franklin Roosevelt, he was 39 when he contracted the disease."

Differentiation between those regarded to be at risk from polio seems to be between local Jordanians and members of the expatriate community. Embassies have reacted to the outbreak with caution; the French Embassy has issued a non-obligatory recommendation that its citizens be vaccinated irrespective of age, and British subjects have also been advised similarly.

"Anyone can be prone to polio, so we are encouraging adults to be vaccinated," said a British Embassy spokesperson. "There is no harm in vaccinating adults. Anyone who comes to Jordan from outside should have had a polio booster anyway."

Dr Adnan Abbas, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Health, said that immunity to polio differs from one country to the next, and in that respect Jordanians are at less risk and have no obligation to revaccinate. He also added that the ministry and WHO sources assume that vaccination of the under-fives only is sufficient to stem further outbreaks.

There has been disparity in medical opinion as to whether it is safe to vaccinate adults at all. One doctor recommended that the maximum age for vaccination be 17 years, on the grounds that exceeding this age limit could be hazardous. Other physicians disputed this, arguing that adults can continue to receive polio boosters regularly.

"Polio boosters are advisable every four to five years," said another doctor, "especially for people in possible contact with the virus, such as parents of small children, nurses, doctors and laboratory technicians. I would even advise those who are working in the Jordan Valley at the moment to be revaccinated."

None of the doctors interviewed was worried about an imminent epidemic amongst adults, and one conceded that the ministry is, first and foremost, obliged to secure the vaccination of Jordan's infant population. "The ministry does not have the amenities, financial or otherwise, to distribute free vaccinations to adults. It's a matter of economics," he said.

5 MARCH 1992

By Cristina Malak  
Special to The Star

## Cerebral Palsy Foundation defends a child's right to education

divided into three groups: Mild, moderate and severe, as training depends on the state of the child. Physiotherapy is a major part of their training, but Dr Baban said, "It is extremely important to teach the carer of the child to understand the aim of the exercise. Progress depends on how often the exercise is repeated, and therefore it must be known that training only at the center is not enough."

Another part of the center activities is to teach every day activities such as holding objects, eating and dressing, and to show the carer postures by which to improve the child's mobility.

Additionally, an important part of the program is teaching children through play. In this way, mental ability may improve as well as concentration and mobil-

ity. Children come to the center, receive training and then go home.

The policy of the CPF has always been that the child should grow up in a normal environment, being the family. "Therefore, the CPF does not encourage separation and can offer their help only on a daily basis," said Dr Baban.

Starting at an early age and with regular training, the child soon improves his mobility. Once this has given him a reasonable amount of independence he will be integrated into a normal school. Dr Baban pointed out that it is the right of every child to receive education. Before, both families and experts often felt frustrated since their training could only continue un-

til a certain age. When the children reached school age, nobody would accept them. "The CP child cannot adjust into a normal school without the essential preparation, but now we are able to prepare them for integration," said Dr Baban.

The kindergarten, which has taken seven years to establish, also has a first grade class. The kindergarten now receives 28 children between the ages of four and seven for pre-school education. Two teachers will teach every class; one will concentrate on daily activities, while the other will be responsible for academic training.

As for the cost, this is all according to the financial status of each family. The CPF itself receives support from the government in the form of trained



"A dream has come true"

teachers, physiotherapists or other experts rather than money.

Dr Baban is delighted that nowadays attitudes towards people with special problems are positive. "People now accept those with handicaps more easily than before, and integration will not meet such difficulties as in the past," she said.

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# Eastern Art

سيفوي



By Rand Al Habash  
Special to The Star

## Jordan's Economic Revival Plan

### Inching slowly towards recovery

WORKING TO offset massive foreign debt re-payments, a 10 per cent increase in population and the continuing denial of Arab financial assistance, Jordan has unveiled a long term economic "revival and restructuring" program.

The plan, aimed at addressing

#### NEWS ANALYSIS

financial and monetary problems, resuming sustained growth, and speeding recovery from the impact of the 1991-92 Gulf crisis, has been endorsed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a planned recovery for the years 1991-1998.

Although it was opposed by many members of Parliament

and the press, it was adopted due to the lack of any other feasible alternative, Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh has said. Opposition centered around the anticipated retail price increases that would result as the government increases revenues, rationalizes expenditures, reduces subsidies, and imposes new fees and taxes.

The restructuring program sets a long-term annual growth rate target of three per cent by 1998, up from the anemic one per cent growth in 1991 gross domestic product (GDP), Jaraneh has said. The plan aims to spur growth and create jobs by emphasizing import substitution and increasing exports, he said.

The success of the new program depends largely on Jordan's ability to reschedule payments of the interest and principal on its debt, the finance minister has said. The first priority is to reschedule payments of \$1.5 billion due in 1991, 1992, and the first half of 1993 in order to temporarily free the government of its external obligations so that it can address domestic problems, Mr Jaraneh added. Jordan owed a net amount of \$400 million that was due by the end of 1991 after it defaulted on payments in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Jordan's foreign debt stood at \$8.173 billion on October 31,

1991. Mr Jaraneh claimed that the total amount due between 1992 and the year 2000 should be reduced to \$5.595 billion from \$6.351 and interest to \$2.376 billion from \$3.855 billion.

In defending the government from charges that it was allowing foreign institutions to interfere in the Kingdom's internal affairs, Jaraneh said that Jordan had presented its program for economic recovery in the 1992-1998 period to international lending agencies to guarantee external support. This support, he has said, would free the government from the burden of servicing foreign debts. It might



Mr Jaraneh

also generate financial aid needed to support the balance of payments and maintain financial and monetary stability, he has said.

One of Jordan's main objectives in its adopted new economic recovery program is to build up its foreign exchange reserves so as to maintain a stable exchange rate for the Jordanian Dinar. The goal is to make the dinar strong enough to withstand difficulties similar to the Gulf crisis, when the cut-off of foreign funds caused Jordan to default on its loan re-payments. The foreign exchange reserves available now stand at \$878 million, which is sufficient to finance four months of imports. Jordan expects to record an excess in its balance of payment for 1991 as a result of increased activities in the service sector (i.e., tourism and transportation) and from increased savings transfer by returns. However, Jaraneh has said, this does not indicate an improvement in the economy.

In addition, the government will try to solve the burden of the foreign debt by a discounted debt buy-back scheme that would transform loans into equity investments, a swap of exports for debts and repayment of debt in non-convertible local currency.

The new program envisages a reduction in Jordan's annual rate of inflation from five per cent in 1991 to half that rate by the year 1997. It aims to reduce the budget deficit 18 per cent in 1991 to 5 per cent in 1997 by cutting government spending to 35 per cent of GDP in 1997 from the current 40 per cent. The program also calls for reducing the balance of payments deficit to 11.7 per cent of the GDP from the estimated 27.7 per cent in 1992.

Those targets would be achieved by controlling government borrowings in a way that will reduce inflationary pressures and improve the financial administration of state-owned companies, specifically those involved in water, power and transport.

The unemployment problem has become progressively worse as the official joblessness rate has increased from 3 per cent in 1980 to 5.3 per cent in 1983 and around 20 per cent in 1990. The 1992 budget provides for the creation of 6,300 new jobs, according to Mr Jaraneh, a target that is realistic in view of the government's emphasis on labour-intensive projects, vocational training programs and assistance being provided to programs aimed at securing employment for Jordanians abroad. Jordan's average annual wage reached JD 1,950 (\$1,305) in 1990, up slightly from JD 1,784 (\$1,193) in 1989, Mr Jaraneh has said.

Continued on page 15



## TORONTO. SAME DAY

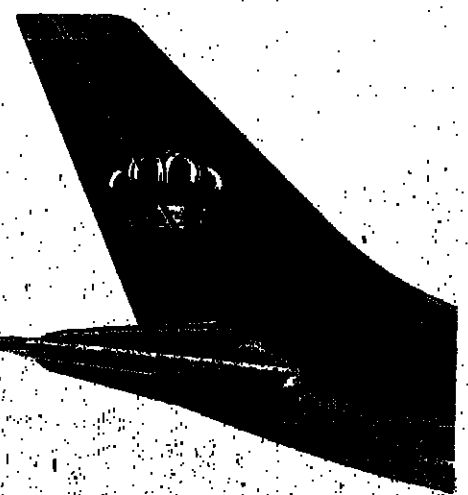
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## Focus on Jordanian Literature (6)

### Hind Abu Ash-Shaar: Abstract and allegorical

By Fahd Salameh

SIXTH part in our series that examines the most recent short story collection written by the distinguished Jordanian artist, Miss Hind Abu Ash-Shaar, will touch on her literary career.

Hind Abu Ash-Shaar was born in Amman and completed her elementary classes at a private school in El-Mafraq. After her family moved to Irbid, the young Hind studied her preparatory and secondary classes there. Significantly enough, Hind made her first literary attempt during her teenage years, including a story and a novel.

In 1970, Hind enrolled at the University of Jordan where she studied history and obtained her BA. She entered into teaching, and at the same time continued her graduate studies. In 1980, she obtained her Master's degree in Islamic history.

Hind soon resigned from her work as head-mistress of one of Amman's schools, and embarked on preparing her doctoral thesis.

She now writes a weekly article in Al-Rai newspaper and contributes to many Jordanian and Arab newspapers and journals. She also has great interest in academic research, especially in the fields of Islamic history and civilization.

She is a member of The Jordanian Writers' Association, and participates actively in literary symposiums and festivals. She has produced and published two collections of short stories and an academic research paper in the movement of Abu Ubeid ibn Thaqafi in El-Koufi, sponsored by The University of Jordan.

She has also prepared the manuscripts for a collection of short stories, a collection of prose, and a collection of poems. Besides her literary talent, Hind Abu Ash-Shaar is an artist, and a member of the Young Group of Artists, who specialize in plastic arts. She has participated in art exhibitions held in Jordan and Syria, in addition to her participation for several consecutive years in the poetic festival at Marjoun in Iraq.

The *Stallion*, an 18-short-story collection by this young writer, was published in 1991 by the Jordanian Writers' Association, with a cover design by the Jordanian artist, Khadr Nacem. The collection is characterized by its symbolic and, in some instances, allegorical and abstract nature. It approaches modern Jordanian society with a critical eye on the social, political, intellectual and cultural spheres, scrutinizing problems and diagnosing the diseases from which they suffer.

In her earlier collections, the *Stallion* concentrates on the problems of the middle class, the true representation of Jordanian society. In choosing this theme, Hind Abu Ash-Shaar succeeds in presenting its problems, analyzing them, and showing their impact - leading to the disintegration of this class through poverty.

Poverty is a focal point in her collection; she skillfully delineates the disparity between dream and reality and



Hind Abu Ash-Shaar

wealth and poverty. Such an instance could be found in the story *The Coat*, and *Subheyyeh on Friday*.

In some of her stories, Hind emphasizes the relation between the present status quo in the Arab world, and the history of the Arab nation, attempting to find an explanation for the deterioration that has seized the Arab world. In *The Mud*, she manages to depict the contradiction between appearance and reality. It is a symbolic story in which mud represents moral disintegration and corruption. Very few people

manage to avoid it, or even think of doing so.

The events of this story are very simple; one morning, an employee intends to leave home for his work, but before stepping into the street, he realizes that the heavy rain has filled the street with mud. Cursing, he looks at his clothes, which are stained, but what surprises him most is that he sees many of his friends, neighbors and acquaintances swimming in the mud and enjoying themselves.

Among the faces he recognizes is that of his Big Boss, holding the hand of a beautiful girl from the neighborhood. The employee stands firm in the face of the invitations and temptations to join them, but to his dismay, he suddenly observes his wife, throwing herself in the mud, enjoying the pleasure of covering herself with it without any sense of guilt or shame.

The collection, however, took its name from one of the short stories which may be, at least from the author's point of view, the most important one. Again, *The Stallion* is symbolic, an inquiry about the future of Arab civilization which was once the source of enlightenment for the whole world, and a source of pride for all Arabs.

Finally, his strides came to a standstill, and in the provoking veins, his pulse ceased; and with a terrific grief, his last rising ended. The muscles of his long neck convulsed, as a desiccated poplar grove; and the muscles

from which slid the last drops of sweat stopped moving all at once. Death intensely pervaded the strained body; it stormed, penetrated the cells, took hold of every single thing in it, and finally, with an astounding rigidity, settled in the depth of the black eyes, invaded by a gloomy, grey color, which were widely open to the blue horizon.

We all at once sat on the dry, brown earth, as though in a sacred ritual, or in a nameless, boundless theatrical scene, and gazed into the depth of the terrible eyes where death finally froze.

I said, and my voice seemed to come from another world:

"My God, how hard death is!"

A tear rolled down my eyes, spread, dropped and wetted everything; then sank in the dry, brown earth.

One of them said, while putting his hand on the majestically and imperiously-stretched body of the stallion in front of us:

"This is incredible! It is like the death of a king in a battlefield."

I saw him feel the stallion, as though he were feeling a sacred trophy, very dear to his heart.

"My God!" I reiterated in amazement. The faces that were observing the body awesomely,

earth, its feel hurt me. A real terror seized me, as it came to my mind that I do not like dry earth, hard stones; nor could I tolerate the whim that death will make me a part of those ugly, woeful features. I looked at that terrible, regal corpse, lying in painful silence before me on the dry earth, and muttered, as though to myself:

"He was more speedy than a stormy wind."

"He was as bright as a summer star," said a woman's voice behind me.

"I used to like the muscles of his neck which loftily soared to the sky, feel the pulse of his veins, and could not believe that that power resides in him in such a mysterious manner," I said.

A man who smoked endlessly, said:

"His forehead is as wide as a globe, wider than space, and greater than ages."

The woman spoke wearily this time and said:

"His blaze is as a precious, regal crown. After every race, I wished to touch and stroke his forelocks."

"Like rain," I said, "his sweat used to pour, slide off his strained muscles; and when a race was over, he used to stop contentedly. Egoism used to dominate me,

my blood warm with pleasure, and I would feel happiness deep within me; and all of us used to join his aura."

"He shall never neigh again," said an unknown voice,

"and this is lamentable, lamentable as death. No more races to attend, no more waging, waiting, astonishment, or going to war."

For the first time, we looked at each other. We were terrified by the last voice; deep

within us, we felt the repercussion of his words roaring as thunder. Whims cropped in our heads, and showed in our features; and I said imploringly:

"Is everything over, then?"

"It is death," said one of them. "Neither medicine, nor weeping, nor praying will remedy it."

"One day, he paced the globe," arrived the woman's voice boldly. "With his agile and rapid feet, he reached China. Then he turned westwards and stormed the world. Can he thus simply die? I can't believe it, I cannot."

I gazed at his wide, black eyes, their space wider than the globe, wider than a sky with moons and stars. To my surprise, and for the first time, I saw a new world in them. I called in a retaliatory tone:

"He hasn't died, he hasn't died, yet. Look to the depths and see what I have seen."

We all assembled, stood before the wide space, drawn in the widely-open eyes on the vast, blue horizon.

"His eyes moved," said the woman. "Look at them, they are now moving. He hasn't died, he cannot die! He cannot."

"No," said the man who ceaselessly smoked. He shook his head. "Death resides in them; everything is over. Foster no illusions, lady."

"The heart stopped for a while," I said rashly, "this does not mean death. His heart, it is true, stopped for a few minutes, but his brain is still alive. All that he needs is an electric shock, and he will gallop, and blood will flow again in his veins. We all know that this usually happens, he is not dead."

The man said while feeling the heart of the stallion:

"I'm not a doctor, but I know there is still hope. We, as a team, should take the important decision; the solution is in our hands."

We jumped, we were excited and pleased; we performed some comic gestures. Enthusiastically, he said again:

"Fetch the doctor, the doctor is the solution."

"The doctor no longer exists," said the woman with deep sorrow. "He died, and his inheritors divided his instruments among them. They damaged some, and buried others."

A man speaking for the first time said roughly:

"This is of no avail. Let us bury him and bring a substitute for him."

"No!" cried the woman wearily. "His substitute which you talk about is very old, and there is no hope in him. How can he win any race? No, we will not bury him."

"There are a thousand doctors," said another. "Let us look for another."

"Look for any other means; he must live, he has to live."

Shouting increased, voices shocked me and argument heated. I drew nearer to his lucid eyes, they were like a boundless horizon; I saw my image reflected in his eyes, and I smiled.

"All, silence, please." I shouted with a voice that extended unendingly. "Come along and help me."

I started massaging the heart; I started massaging it, and felt the warmth which covered the stretches from which warm sweat was still dripping.

On this optimistic note, the story ends. But whether this optimism is justified, remains unanswered. But as in all her stories, Hind writes for intelligent, cultured readers; her concern is the human individual, as an independent organism, as well as in his social context. The issues she tackles in her collection are poverty, alienation, social disintegration, feminist problems and political and historic questions. The diversity of the issues and their common nature, makes her collections accessible to all readers, regardless of their cultural background, and thus, Hind Abu Ash-Shaar writes for all readers in the Arab world. ■

Fahd A. Salameh is a producer for Radio Jordan. He has an MA in English Literature from the University of Jordan.





# Arab-American poet portrays her unforgotten land

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to The Star

*How do you know if you are going to die? I begged my mother. We had been travelling for days with strange confidence she answered. "When you can no longer make a fist."*

THIS EXTRACT, from the poem *Making a Fist*, is taken from the anthology *Grape Leaves* by Arab-American poet Naomi Shihab Nye.

Arab-American poetry in the US is currently witnessing a new generation of writers, removed from the *Mahjar* school of which Gibril Khalil Gibran was a pioneer, although contemporary Arab-American writers deal with the same subjects as their predecessors: Parental love, injustice, homesickness and the search for the self.

Naomi has just returned from a trip to the West Bank. Although 40 years of age, with her plaited hair and her face free of make-up, she looks like a teenager. Her black embroidered jacket shows that the Palestinian heritage is still alive for her.

After hearing her poetry and songs, one senses that she feels lucky to be bicultural; she describes her dual heritage as "a bridge between two worlds." Even though she has lived for

the most part of her life in Texas, she shares a mysterious cultural bond with her father's Palestinian culture.

Having only lived in the West Bank for one year back in 1966, she is aware of being somewhat removed from her father's people. However, she says that this distance "allows a writer to observe, discuss and wonder about things that might not be his or her most immediate situation more objectively."

Her feelings for the Palestinian issue and the uprising are clear in her poems. Nostalgia for an unforgotten land is revealed in *My Father and the Fig Tree*. Created from a real life incident, this poem recounts a man's struggle to keep a memory alive: The memory of "figs like ripe tokens, emblems, assurance of a world that was always his own."

Even when not writing about the Palestinians directly, Naomi constantly refers to time, strength, courage, stones or pain. Naomi's folk songs evolve around dreams — not the American dream, but the dream of finding "music in a stone so long alone."

On the intifada, Naomi writes *The 500th Palestinian Dead*. Angered at how the deaths of young Palestinians were reported as mere statistics in a small column in the local paper, Naomi decided to write about the 500th mar-



Naomi Shihab Nye: Bridging two worlds

tyr, whom on this occasion was named.

Her recent trip to the West Bank told Naomi that a change is imminent. After talking to Israeli poets for the first time in her life, she was told that people in the occupied territories are unhappy and are calling for change. "Detention is so thick," she said. "The shopkeepers are so hungry; they can't keep closing their shops any more."

Most of Naomi's work deals with personal experience. As one reads her poems one sees into her character and sees the things she finds humorous or sad. Even when she was snowed in at her hotel during her stay in Jordan she wrote a poem about Turkish coffee. Despite the simple sub-

ject matter and light hearted tone found in some of her work, this poetry conveys a powerful message from within. When describing having lunch in Nablus with friends, she is really writing about the steadfastness of a people who can still think of building a park in times of trouble. Poems such as these mostly end with a note of hope or the image of green.

Employing a technique similar to novelist Virginia Woolf's, Naomi makes connections between seemingly unrelated subjects such as blooming flowers and bombs. She describes how she sees a flower bloom in the same spot that the daily newspaper is thrown every morning. She emphasizes how, despite this constant bombardment, the flower is adamant to thrive and grow — perhaps an analogy to the Palestinians?

It has been argued that while Arab-American poets write about things related to the Arab world, their poems are influ-

enced by American literature stylistically. Naomi agrees with this as she feels very close to the ethnicity of contemporary American poetry.

The topic of the "self," a theme in Arab-American writings, symbolizes for Naomi the spirit of humanity. She believes that discovering one's identity and finding ways of integrating it with other "selves" gradually recedes as one grows older and shoulders more responsibilities.

As an educator, Naomi sees poetry as therapy, and has been using it with schizophrenic patients. Poetic aesthetics are less important to her than poetry's healing effects. "I'm not interested in poetry as art, or rhetorical statements," she said. "It's said that a lot of Palestinian poetry has had to become rhetorical just to give it a sense of connection between the people."

Naomi lectures on how to introduce poetry to children, and writes short stories and children's anthologies. "Reading is critical to transcend our own worlds and to build bridges with other ones," she said. She has 20 years' experience in a project called "Artists in the Schools," which aims to stimulate a new dimension of creative writing in education. Reading poetry or other literary genres is a means of connecting the reader to other people, which Naomi finds critical to world understanding.

ter. "Eventually," he said, "he should take advantage of everything he knows and feels and should put it in his own way."

Asked to explain the reasons behind Fawcett's low break, he said that the government and the private sector had not paid enough attention to theater production. "Theater artists represent Jordanian society with all of its positive and negative aspects, and having a chance to work in our fields, we are able to treat these aspects in a civilized way. In this period of artistic liberation and democratization, society is realizing that we need theater as much as we need streets, schools, trees and parks. We must encourage the establishment of new cultural centers, theaters, magazines, exhibition and concert halls. Arts improve life at all levels, and I think we have started to realize that," he said, adding, "A human is strongest of all. I think we are realizing that too."

'Long Live Gelgash' will be relaunched at the Royal Cultural Centre and will run from 7-12 March. Curtain will be at the special Ramadan time of 9 pm.



## Nader Amran: "A human is strongest of all"

By Vesna Masharqa  
Special to The Star

SNOW AND winds swept into Amman this winter along with yet another outstanding theater production, causing much admiration for the growing variety of cultural events that have generated in the wake of democratic changes. Indeed, its popularity was such that it will now be relaunched for the month of Ramadan.

'Long Live Gelgash' was a new play from the Fawcett theater group, and was first staged at the Royal Cultural Centre at the end of January. It marked Fawcett's revival, who last appeared in public in 1986. After all these years of silence, 'Long Live Gelgash' came to voice, a vigorous, new statement from the Fawcett group — that "a human is strongest of all."

The play, which was directed, written and set-designed by Nader Amran, was a genuine theater piece with powerfully presented

characters, impressive scenography and beautiful costumes.

"We wanted to create beauty, taking it from every single participant in this production, and to combine it with theatrical expression," said Amran. "I gave absolute freedom to the actors, musicians, set and costume designers to search and study their own ways of art presentation. The result was amazing."

Amran started writing 'Long Live Gelgash' three years ago, and it is a mixture of oriental tales which he decided to present in the form of impressions. The script was, as he said, "a song which inspired his working team to put on a dance."

Aref Mouhtaseb, who acted in the roles of Shushan and Ilkhan said, "This play helped me discover my strength and acting potential. It was my first time to work with a director in this way. I was asked to give my own interpretation of the two characters and to search within myself for the best way of presenting

them."

Director Amran stressed that team work in theater requires lots of effort, for both the director and actors themselves. It is an appeal for mutual understanding, respect and tolerance. He expressed satisfaction in the fact that he had tried something he was convinced about theoretically, but he admitted that it was extremely difficult to deal with it in practice.

Actor Mouhtaseb explained the procedure: "We were given the script for 15 days to study the characters, and were asked to give our opinions and views on the play. At the rehearsal we would work on a scene in a way so that each one of us was to inspire his character and direct his piece alone. Then, together with the director, we would decide what should be worked on more, and what could be repeated from the way it had been done."

It was the first time for Amran to appear as both director and playwright. As a scenographer

and contest winner for the best theater scenography and costume design at the First Jordanian Theatre Festival, he chose to combine two powerful elements on the stage: Acting and the art of set designing. It resulted in strong, impressive pictures, which were sometimes breath taking.

Amran stressed his belief that a director should not adhere to certain styles or schools in theater.

## The Arabs in Israel

### The silent minority



is an intelligent, down-to-earth, happy-go-lucky farmer who is happy in maintaining the family tradition, making money, and enjoying life with his young wife and numerous friends.

Ismail, Abu Ahmad's nephew, a physics teacher at the local high school, is "the political black sheep of the family," and a leading figure in the local Communist party. He represents the politically-involved young intellectual, who pays a high price for his convictions. Mayssa, Abu Ahmad's youngest daughter, is the young university graduate, who, having experienced a per-

sonal tragedy, is caught between the wish to pursue individual goals and the traditional norms of marriage and family. Fortunately, for her, she finds a husband who shares her values, thus enabling her to reconcile the two conflicting desires.

This book is both illuminating and enjoyable. Gorkin is a born story-teller. Though he has doubtless made use of his professional knowledge and insight, he has done so in a way that does not affect the spontaneity of the characters. The only reservation is that most of them are so positive and likable that one wonders how representative they are. Gorkin admits that he chose them because he liked them, and was interested in them, which of course is perfectly justified. Yet can they really be regarded as typical? Even if this question remains unanswered, there is a lot to be learned from this book.

ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE towards the Arab minority in Israel is one of indifference but this can hardly be said of Israelis attitude towards the Palestinians outside Israel — inhabitants of the refugee camps, and "PLO terrorists." Here, propaganda has succeeded in dehumanizing them to the point that most Israelis don't feel any sympathy for their plight or interest in their achievements. Now, with new hopes for a peace settlement in our corner of the world, the time has come for Israel to identify

some of the old stereotypes. Julie M. Petecot's book may not serve this aim, from Israel's point of view, since it is written by a person who identifies completely with the Palestinian national struggle and whose approach to the resistance movement is totally uncritical. She is a source of valuable information, largely unknown to the Israeli reader.

Women Under Stress is an anthropological study of the Palestinians in Lebanon at the time of "anyam Beirut" (the days of glory of the Palestinian Resistance in Beirut before the Leba-

which simultaneously shape and constrain the potential of influence of one upon the other." The rather ambitious aim is to fill a gap in the theoretical underdevelopment of Middle Eastern feminist anthropology. To what extent she has succeeded in this should be judged by her academic colleagues. The considerable amount of theorizing does not always help clarify issues and more often than not obscures them, belabors the obvious, and makes her repetitious and hard to read.

However, many issues of interest, especially for readers interested in feminist topics, are tackled, among them: Changing attitudes towards the choice of a marriage partner and women's work outside the home; the weakening of family control mechanism together with the retention of the support network of extended families and neighborhood groups; men's attitudes to women's greater assertiveness; women in the roles of political activists, fighters, and mothers in single-parent families after the death of their husbands. Some historical and sociological issues are dealt with, such as the effect of an external threat and a common cause of class relations, and the history of the Palestinian struggle for independence. A few case studies are offered but they are of secondary importance, and presented only for the purpose of illustration.

Petecot's study exhibits a typical anthropological bias, in describing a social phenomenon from the "inside", i.e. from the perspective of the members of the social group which it studies. While such an approach is eminently suitable for the study of small communities, tribal societies or inmates in "total" institutions, it has serious drawbacks when applied to such a complex political reality as Palestinian society in Lebanon. Contacts between the population studied and the outside are barely mentioned, and, when they are, only in the most stereotyped and prejudiced manner.

Conflicts between Palestinians in general, and camp inhabitants in particular (and the local authorities and population), are completely absent from this account, as are the larger political issues concerning the internal and external relations of the resistance movement. True, the author was primarily interested in changes in the position of women, but a reader is unable to ignore these broader concerns, and can scarcely avoid sensing the incompleteness of this book, in spite of Petecot's commitment and seriousness.

Jerusalem Post Magazine

*Though all of them (Israel's Arabs) harbor feelings of resentment as a result of past and present injustices, their reactions range from those of the high-school students who both admire and envy the "children of the stones" in the occupied territories, and feel inferior to them.*

### Campaign '92:

Race for the presidency

President Bush formally announced his reelection bid Feb. 12. Election preferences and dates candidates entered and left the race:

1991 April 1 May 1 June 1 July 1 Aug. 1 Sept. 1 Oct. 1 Nov. 1 Dec. 1 1992 Jan. 1 Feb. 1 Mar. 1 April 1 May 1 June 1 July 1 Aug. 1 Sept. 1 Oct. 1 Nov. 1 Dec. 1

Democrat:

Paul Tsongas, former Mass. senator; L. Douglas Wilder, Va. governor; Tom Harkin, Iowa senator; Bob Kerrey, Neb. senator; Bill Clinton, Ark. governor; Edmund "Jerry" Brown, former Calif. governor

Republican:

David Duke, former Klansman; Patrick Buchanan, conservative commentator; George Bush, president

Call. primary, June 2

Super Tuesday, March 10

Democrat convention, July 18-19 in New York City

Republican convention, Aug. 17-20 in Houston

Sept. 13, 1991 Withdrawal: Jan. 6, 1992

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Feb. 12, 1992

Dec. 10, 1991

Dec. 4, 1991

Oct. 21, 1991

Oct. 2, 1991

Sept. 30, 1991

Sept. 16, 1991

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## Our Say...

### Staying on track

THE STALEMATED peace talks in Washington have become something of an exercise in futility. This is so because after many rounds of arduous negotiations and attempts to put forward a serious agenda for resolving the multitude of problems between Israel and her Arab neighbors, the Israelis are still dragging their feet by avoiding to go into substance.

Five months after the opening of the Madrid conference in October last year, it is now clear that the Arabs mean to do business. During this latest round of talks, the Palestinians have submitted a detailed plan to hold free elections in the occupied territories as a step towards establishing an interim self-government for the Palestinians. So far Israel's reaction to the plan has been vague and dubious, with attempts to sidestep the real issues and engage their interlocutors in labyrinthine and futile discussions about the interpretation of UN Security Council resolution number 242, which is the basis of the whole peace process.

It is at this stage that a definitive move on the part of the United States becomes a necessity if the peace talks are to succeed or continue. The Israeli government is using the Washington talks as an election stunt so that it can present itself to the Israeli electorate as a government which seeks to conclude peace with her Arab neighbors. But Israeli negotiators are exposing the real motives of their government by refusing to go into details or to commit their country to any substantial positions on 242 and the exchange of land for peace.

Israel's stalling has been evident on all fronts. Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese negotiators have all expressed their disappointment with the progress of the talks so far. It is our concern that no real progress will be made until the June Israeli elections and beyond. The question to ask is, will that historic "window of opportunity" remain open until then? What is needed at this stage is not a new interpretation of 242. Israel's reasons for wanting that are clear. It wants to wriggle out of its responsibility and obligation to vacate the lands it has occupied since the 1967 war.

What the peace talks need, with active American involvement, is to move forward by breaking new grounds such as putting a freeze on settlement activities, agreeing on the general principles of Palestinian self-government and setting a date for local elections. What is also needed is for Israel to commit itself to withdrawing from South Lebanon and to agree to hand control of the Golan Heights to the Syrians.

No one underestimates the heavy burdens which all parties carry as they meet time and again behind closed doors to discuss the future and an end to years of bitterness. The task of peace making is difficult indeed. But there has to be a sign of good will on both sides in order to make progress. The Arabs have shown such good intentions, but it will have to be clear to all that Arab negotiators cannot compromise on Arab rights as guaranteed under international law. At the same time, Israel cannot attend the talks and continue to build settlements and change realities on the ground. This is not the objective of the peace conference. The peace process is designed to end occupation, not to legalize it, and it is aimed at restoring rights, not wasting them. The time has come for the United States to intervene before the process loses its momentum and its meaning.

## Letter from Washington A taste of things to come?

By Jonab Tutunji

This is the first in a series of occasional columns that will deal with aspects of politics in the United States that are relevant to the Middle East. The purpose of these columns will be to inform and analyze, at times to criticize and at other times merely to present a non-judgemental account of the workings of American politics.

"Sending a message" has become the height of fashion in US politics. Voters in the New Hampshire primary elections who chose Patrick Buchanan are said to have sent a message to President Bush: that the occupant of the Oval Office has neglected the economy for too long and abandoned conservative Republican values.

Democratic front runner for the day Paul Tsongas also said that he had a message for the White House: That the American people want jobs, jobs, jobs. He's right of course. The day after the primary General Motors announced that it would be laying off over 16,000 workers in the next three years. The fate of the ailing US economy will no doubt foreshadow all other issues in the coming elections.

In keeping with the spirit of the times, Secretary of State James Baker chose a public forum to send a message to Prime Minister Shamir. Mr Baker told the Israeli leader that he had to put a freeze on Jewish settlements in the West Bank or lose the \$10 billion US loan guarantees he has been requesting. This marks the first time that any American administration has linked the issue of settlements in the West Bank with US economic support for Israel.

Mr Baker's conditions included a halt to clearing land for construction projects as well. The guarantees given would be for \$2 billion a year over the next five years, and the arrangement would be monitored by the US every 12 months. Settlements already begun by January could be completed, but the cost of completion would be deducted from the loan guarantees.

In Arab eyes, Mr Baker's ultimatum was not only welcome but also long overdue. Successive US administration have declared their opposition to the settlements, but none has so far resorted to the tremendous economic leverage the US has over Israel to secure compliance with its wishes. That President Bush and his team should have done so in an election year seems to violate an accepted tenet of US politics.

The fact of the matter, however, is that Secretary Baker's actions carry little political cost to the administration. I do not mean to belittle Mr Baker's long standing commitment to the principles involved, but the mood in the country is congenial to what he wanted to do. The American public is in general hostile to massive doses of foreign aid while Americans are suffering at home. Republican Jews are unlikely to desert Mr Bush for Mr Buchanan because the latter is suspected by some of being anti-Semitic.

However, Mr Bush is courting the danger that if he is the Republican party's candidate, disaffected voters may simply not bother to go to the polls.

Influential Congressional leaders of both parties are sympathetic to the administration's policy of linking the loan guar-

antees to a freeze on settlement. Members of the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee, before which Mr Baker was testifying when he delivered his message to Mr Shamir on 24 February, were generally understanding of the State Department's position.

The following day Mr Baker came in for much tougher questioning from members of the Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee who are traditional supporters of Israel, but the administration's policy did not appear to be in jeopardy. Some Republican senators who were critical of Mr Baker are up for re-election and did not appear eager to challenge the president.

Still, things may change down the line. If it should appear as the primaries progress that the president has no cost tails for Republican candidates to hang on to, pro Israel Republicans may become much more vociferous in their criticism. Nevertheless, President Bush, asked about the risks he was courting, pledged not to back down. He told reporters, "We spelled out our policy. There it is," adding that "I'm not going to shift the foreign policy of this country because of political expediency. I would not have any credibility worldwide."

Still, the yearly American aid package to Israel of over \$3 billion is not affected, nor is the United States' commitment to the security of Israel. As informed observers had suspected all along, Mr Shamir said in his response that he would rather sacrifice the loan guarantees rather than compromise on settlements.

Frankly, Mr Shamir was not expected to compromise on a basic tenet of Likud ideology; backing down on the settlements could hurt him politically, while the influx of immigrants from the former Soviet Union, among them practising Jews, are a distinct minority and will not necessarily swell the ranks of Mr Shamir's supporters or further his electoral chances.

At worst, the Likud leader could turn to Israel's fairly substantial foreign currency reserves as collateral for the loans. Meanwhile, Housing Minister Ariel Sharon has let it be known that work has commenced on 22,000 housing units in the occupied territories. That is a staggering figure. If there is a freeze in the work of the occupied territories, it is the work of Mother Nature and not the Likud's policy on settlements. Israeli delegates to the current peace talks in Washington have let it be known that their government is redefining self-rule for the territories so as to grant Israelis a permanent right to settle in the West Bank.

It looks like the current or future US administration will have to resort to trimming the regular annual foreign aid package to Israel if they want further leverage. That would be a different matter altogether and would certainly precipitate a fight with Jewish groups in the US which have so far been avoiding a direct confrontation with the Bush administration.

If the performance of the US economy should improve in the meanwhile, the prospects for applying economic sanctions on Israel will quickly evaporate as the public will become more indifferent to the outflow of aid dollars and Congress will become more combative in response to pro-Israel political action committees.

## Answering questions from ADC Bush reiterates commitment to 242 and to toppling Saddam Hussein

US President George Bush recently answered questions submitted by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee in Washington. The questions and answers dealt with civil liberties and immigration laws in the US, US policy towards Israel and the issue of the loan guarantees and US attitude to the peace process. Excerpts follow.

ADC: Regarding Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees, would you make your support contingent on a complete freeze on all Israeli settlement and what budgetary sacrifices do you believe Israel should make before the US continues to provide such extraordinary levels of aid?

President Bush: Secretary of State Baker is now discussing with the Israeli government terms and conditions under which this administration could support additional loan guarantees for Israel. I am committed to the principle for free immigration to Israel and their successful absorption inside Israel. At the same time, we view the current settlement activity in the occupied territories as an obstacle to peace. We want to resolve this issue in a manner that supports, and does not contradict, longstanding US policy objectives in the region.

Q: What policies would you initiate to secure basic human rights for Palestinians living under military occupation?

A: The State Department's Human Rights Report for 1991 contains comprehensive analysis of the human rights situation in the occupied territories. The United States considers Israel's occupation of these territories to be governed by the Hague Regulations of 1907 and the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War. We have raised the treatment of Palestinians living in these territories with the Israeli government directly and are working with that government to see that conditions improve. The Middle East peace process launched in Madrid provides for direct negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis to realize both security for Israel and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

Q: Based on Israel's continued violation of human rights conventions and international law, would you implement a review of US-Israeli aid and trade relations as is required by US law, including the Foreign Assistance Act?

A: Human rights is a fundamental part of my administration's foreign policy. The human rights situation in the occupied territories is a matter of continuing high level concern. Our response is designed both to protect human rights in the near term and to promote the peace process.

Q: Do you support Palestinian self-determination and statehood?

A: We support the Palestinian people realizing their legitimate political rights in a context that assures Israel's security. This administration has launched a process designed to bring comprehensive, just and lasting peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors, including the Palestinians. We believe that such a peace should be based on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace.

Q: Do you support the lifting of international sanctions imposed on Iraqi trade in non-military goods in order to allow essential imports to alleviate problems of malnutrition and illness among the Iraqi civilian population?



Do you support the lifting of the freeze on that portion of Iraq's assets frozen in the United States that would pay for these supplies?

A: I am very concerned that the policies of Saddam Hussein, including his failure to comply with relevant UN Security Council resolutions, entails continuing hardship for the Iraqi people. I am particularly concerned by the internal embargoes which the current regime has applied to northern Iraq and areas of the south which are designed to deprive civilian populations of food, medicine, fuel, and other essential supplies.

The current United Nations sanctions do not preclude shipments of food and medicine to Iraq. Moreover, the UN Security Council has adopted resolutions 706 and 712 which provide mechanisms by which the Iraqi government can export oil to finance additional humanitarian purchases. To date, the Iraqi government has refused to accept these resolutions.

I believe that there is now growing dissent in Iraq, and the Iraqi people are tired of Saddam Hussein. They are fed up with the diversion of needed food and medicine to the Republican Guard and the ruling elite. Together with our coalition partners, we will keep the pressure on the regime until a new leadership emerges, one that stands ready to live in peace with its people and its neighbors.

Q: Do you support lifting the ban on travel to Lebanon and the re-opening of the United States Consulate there?

A: It does appear that the prospects for stability in Lebanon are improved after a decade and a half of civil war. However, even though all the remaining American hostages have been released, the organizations which abducted them continue to operate within the country. The situation in Lebanon is still so dangerous that no US citizen can be considered safe from terrorist acts. Accordingly, the Department of State advises US citizens to avoid all travel in, to, or through Lebanon. The embassy in Beirut is not fully staffed and personnel remain there under extraordinary tight security. Due to the limited staff and security constraints, the embassy is unable to perform consular functions. This Administration will support removal of the ban on travel to Lebanon and the resumption of consular functions only when it is safe to do so.

Q: Do you support additional aid to Lebanon?

A: In my budget for 1993 I proposed a \$28 million aid package to Lebanon to be used for food, economic development and education. The United States also actively supports international efforts to reconstruct Lebanon.

Q: Do you support Syria's efforts to negotiate the restoration of her national borders by ending Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights?

A: One of my proudest achievements as president is helping launch the Middle East peace talks aimed at a comprehensive peace. After more than 40 years, Syria and Israel are sitting across the table from each other and talking. Secretary of State James Baker and I worked long and hard to achieve this historic breakthrough, and we will continue to act as a catalyst and honest brokers in moving the talks forward. We believe that peace in this region should be based on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace.

Q: Would you support an increase in aid for poorer Arab countries, even if this meant a decrease in aid to Israel?

A: This administration supports the development of economic cooperation among the countries of the Middle East on the basis of liberal policies designed to encourage the repatriation of capital, increased investment, and the removal of barriers to trade. While the United States is willing to help the less developed Arab countries, regional solutions are needed. I believe that such policies should be accompanied by comprehensive long-term efforts to increase stability for the Middle East. I am hopeful that the multilateral phase of the peace process can facilitate this aim.

Q: What steps would you take to ensure that Israel, like other US allies, becomes a signatory to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons?

A: US support for universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is well established. Consistent with this aim, in the aftermath of our victory in the Gulf War I launched a comprehensive arms control initiative designed to address the proliferation challenge in the volatile Middle East region. That initiative included as an interim measure a call for freezing the production of weapons-grade nuclear material and an ultimate goal of making the Middle East a region free of nuclear and other unconventional weapons. Middle East arms control questions will continue to be addressed both in meetings pursuant to my initiative as well as in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.

Q: What action would you take to enforce United Nations Resolution 425 calling for Israel's immediate withdrawal from Lebanon?

A: The current bilateral peace talks between Israel and Lebanon provide the best opportunity to achieve implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. The United States supports the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces. At the same time, we believe the security of southern Lebanon and northern Israel must be assured.

Q: Are non-citizen visitors and permanent residents of the United States entitled to the same Bill of Rights protections that apply to citizens?

A: Both non-citizen visitors and non-citizen permanent residents enjoy protection under the Bill of Rights. Under the Bill of Rights, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, however, alien status may be a factor in the application of particular constitutional provisions.

## Regional ROUND-UP

AMMAN— In an interview with Agence France Presse, King Hussein said UN Security Council Resolution 242 is clear and meant Israeli withdrawal. No regional cooperation can be achieved except within a just and comprehensive peace, the King said. The King will begin a tour next week which includes visits to Iceland, Canada, the United States, France and Germany for talks on regional and international issues and bilateral relations.

RIYADH— King Fahd Ibn Abdel Aziz of Saudi Arabia has announced that a Shura Council will be set up for the oil-rich kingdom comprising 60 appointed members. The creation of the council marks the first step by the Al Saud dynasty toward sharing power with the people. The 40-article decree is the closest thing to a constitution for the kingdom since its inception. Council members will be appointed by the king.

WASHINGTON— No progress has been achieved in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations which reopened in Washington Monday. The talks reportedly reached a deadlock on the vital issue of exchanging land for peace. The Arab parties hinted that Washington should intervene in order to save the stalemate talks.

CAIRO-RIYADH— Egyptian columnist Anis Mansour has said Egypt and Saudi Arabia had refused to participate in a US plan to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. In an article in the newspaper *Al-Ahram*, Mansour said Egypt and Saudi Arabia agreed not to take part in any military operation against Iraq or Libya.

BEIRUT— A Lebanese Ministerial source predicted that discussions will resume between Lebanese and Palestinian officials within two weeks about the civil and social rights of Palestinians in Lebanon.

UNITED NATIONS— Iraq has rejected UN plans for the destruction of its ballistic missile production facilities, again putting itself on a collision course with the United States and other Security Council members. But a high-level Iraqi delegation is expected to arrive in New York next week to put Iraq's case before the council.

STOCKHOLM— Sweden has turned down a request from Libya to host a trial against two Libyan nationals accused of blowing up a Pan Am plane over Scotland, but sources said Libya might ask Morocco to receive the two Libyans as pressure increased on Tripoli to hand in the two men.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM— 23 people have been killed after an East Jerusalem Arab coffee shop caved in under the weight of a snow-saturated cemetery. In another development, Israeli occupation troops shot dead two Palestinians and wounded 25 others in the occupied Gaza Strip's Rafah refugee camp Sunday. The Israeli occupation authorities have extended for two months the closure of Bir Zeit University, the last remaining Palestinian university yet to be allowed to operate.

ALGIERS— Algerian security forces have been extending their crackdown on Islamic activists. Dozens of Hizbollah party militants were rounded up to join detained supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). On Tuesday an Algerian court sentenced two Hizbollah members to death for murder and sabotage.

ANKARA— Turkish planes launched a major operation against Kurdish rebels on the border between Turkey and Iraq. The air strike was directed against the Turkish Workers Party which has been waging a war for a Kurdish independent state.

**The Star**  
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

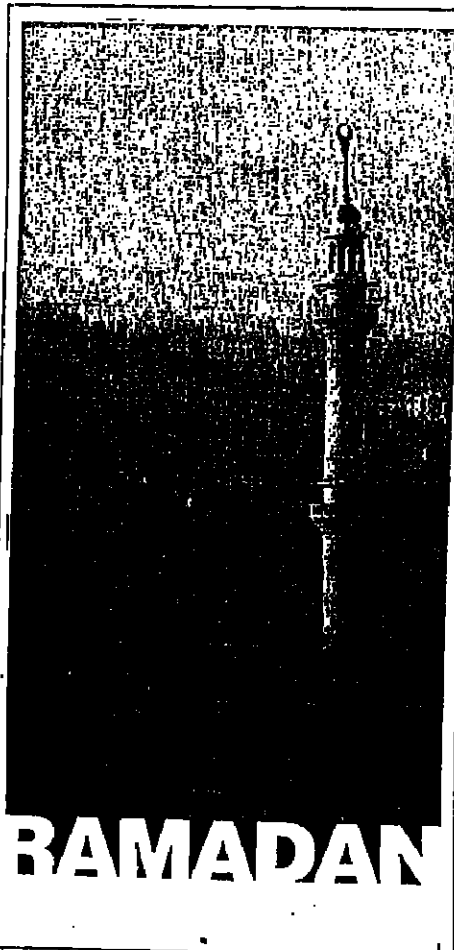
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Ramadan in the Arab world

## Iraqis under sanctions still enjoy the Ramadan spirit



By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to The Star

With the advent of the Holy month of Ramadan, Islamic countries are taking their traditional steps in preparing for this fast. Iraq, under normal conditions, shares many things in common with Jordanians traditions during Ramadan. Nidal Luwayis, wife of the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan, explained the order of events.

During the day people go to their work, and return home around two o'clock in the afternoon. After a short nap it is time to break the fast. Some Iraqi Muslims break their fast with a dish of dates, which they consider to be in accordance with the *Sunna*, while others have soup immediately.

"Iraqis usually eat dates, followed by soup and then grilled meat and fried items such as *kubbeh*," she explained. Meat, she said, is a must for an Iraqi — he eats it three times a day, and when he is fasting he eats it for the *Suhur* (the meal before sunrise), instead of for breakfast.

Iraqi cuisine during Ramadan is characterized by a lot of variety in meats, rice and sweets. *Tashreeb*, similar to our *fateh*, is also eaten. It is bread saturated with chicken or beef stock and covered with the meat of your choice.

Sweets follow, and although *qatayef* are served, they are not part of the "old" menu. Iraqis prefer *baglawi* (puff pastry with honey, almonds or pistachios), *zababiyah* and custards such as *muhlabiyah*.

Dried apricot juice, *qamar el-din*, such as that served in Jordan, is presented with the meal.

In addition, *nagu'*, dried peach juice, particular to Iraq, is also served.

"Breaking the fast means that all members of the family are sitting together as one for one month. They have equally endured the fast, even children as young as eight years old. There is a beautiful feeling to Ramadan," said Mrs Luwayis. "Even those who are not fasting have to sit with the family during this meal."

Socializing comes at night, where visits are made and the young play games together. One of the old Iraqi traditions was *muhabils*, where young men from various areas compete with each other to try and get the *nahbas* (a wedding ring) from the team hiding it. The winning team would distribute *baglawi* to everyone.

Television used to be broadcasted until the wee hours of the morning, but Mrs Luwayis said that some traditions are dying out, for the Iran-Iraq war and the Gulf war have had a drastic effect on her country. Instead of meat, which is currently sold at soaring prices, the Iraqi has to make do with vegetables. Mrs Luwayis said that this was unac-



Iraqi ambassador Mr Nuri Luwayis and his wife Nidal

ceptible for an Iraqi in the past, but sometimes conditions enforce certain things on one.

Another tradition which has died out in the large Iraqi cities is the last call for eating which was undertaken by the *Musahharai* before sun rise.

On the first day of the feast of *Eid*, which heralds the end of the Holy month, Iraqis visit their families and on the second day their friends. However, if there has been a recent death in the family and this is the first feast for the deceased, then relatives have to open their house to receive condolences. The dead are also visited on the morning of the feast.

One famous Iraqi dish which has gained international esteem is rice *kubbeh*. To make it, you will need:

4 cups of rice (preferably Iraqi *ambar rice*)  
1 kilo of meat (lamb)  
1 onion  
a bunch of parsley  
oil, salt, black pepper and herbs

Method: After boiling the rice and waiting for it to dry, knead it into the shape of balls. Some prefer to add saffron to give it a yellowish color. Then, make a hollow well in each ball the size of a small lemon, as you would *kubbeh*. Stuff the rice with the meat, which has been fried with the onion, parsley, oil and spices. Fry immediately if it is going to be served the same day, or freeze for storage and then fry before serving. ■

### RAMADAN REFLECTIONS

Fasting:  
A means  
to an end

By Ahmad Al-Anani

TO FAST is to be pious and God-fearing. Its message is spiritual ennoblement and moral upgrading. The Quranic text decreeing Ramadan fasting includes the following points:

Firstly, as in previous religions, fasting was decreed upon Muslims.

Secondly, that by fasting it is hoped that Muslims may accrue piety.

Thirdly, that the sick, the old-aged, women suffering from pregnancy and with post-birth commitments such as feeding and bread-winners with an obligation to hard work shall be licensed to break their fasting, but shall have to fast in situations of good health anytime during the year.

The fourth point is that those suffering from chronic ailments or old-age and feebleness shall be allowed to extend alms in accordance with a set system for poorer folks, instead of having to fast.

Fifth and finally, the Quran says that as Ramadan was the occasion of the first revelation of the Quran, it shall be the month of devotion to Quranic recitals, to extra-ordinary night prayers, extended alms-giving and good deeds of all kinds.

As fasting in Ramadan is one of the five principal pillars of the Islamic faith, great respect is lent to unanimous fasting and Quranic recitals and explanations. Failure to observe the month's sanctity is viewed with deep denunciation and disdain.

To carry on with this exceptional season of continued dawn-dusk fasting, and of exceptional nocturnal *Taraweeh* prayers, there is the inevitable pressure on man's tongue, so as to conform with the serious message and atmosphere of the holy month.

Muslims in various countries have created ways of light entertainment exercised in Ramadan, so that they ease the tensely-serious atmosphere of the month.

There can be no doubt that fasting creates a psychological atmosphere for noble reflections. Prominent among these is the practical feeling of how it is when one is hungry and has no access to food. Consequently, aid by various methods (in kind and money) rises to a pitch that exceeds the charities of the whole year round. Muslims are called upon to double their assistance to poor folks, especially those that refrain from complaining against their adversities.

Ramadan leaves a deep impression on the intellectual life of Muslims. The extensive and repeated recitals of the holy text of the Quran encourage the emergence of unified terminology and identical styles of rhetoric.

Hence comes the fast that the emergence of the Ramadan crescent is annually expected with rising emotions. ■

# Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Polio

## Le ministre de la Santé monte au créneau

Aref Al Bataineh a lancé une campagne nationale pour lutter contre la polio. Objectif: vacciner 600.000 enfants en deux semaines. Les conseils du ministre. Et ses projets. Interview



Aref Al Bataineh, chef d'orchestre de la campagne anti-polio

L.J: Tout est parti de la vallée du Jourdain. Le reste de la Jordanie est-il touché?

A.A.B: "A peu près deux-tiers des cas ont été recensés dans la Vallée du Jourdain. Mais nous agissons. Des équipes spéciales et mobiles ont procédé à une première vague de vaccination à la mi-janvier. Dans une semaine, nous aurons fini la deuxième".

L.J: Pourquoi avoir lancé une telle campagne? Pourquoi vacciner une deuxième fois des enfants qui ont déjà été immunisés?

A.A.B: "Nous le faisons dans des circonstances particulières, comme cette manifestation limitée de la Polio. Il est essentiel de vacciner à nouveau les enfants de moins de cinq ans, juste pour être sûrs que toute prolifération va être stoppée. De plus, cela correspond aux recommandations des départements du ministère de la Santé, de l'OMS et du CDC. Des équipes émanant de ces organisations sont toujours présentes, elles suivent l'évolution de la situation avec intérêt. Des experts locaux travaillent sur la question".

L.J: D'où viennent les vaccins? A.A.B: "C'est l'UNICEF qui

s'occupe de leur acheminement. Mais c'est le "Jordan Rotary Club" qui finance une bonne partie de la campagne. Le montant total d'une telle initiative est de 230.000 J.D. A part le "Rotary", l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé apporte aussi son concours financier. Quant au gouvernement jordanien, il a pour le moment dépensé 75.000 J.D dans cette campagne. Mais ce n'est qu'une avance. Nous ne connaissons pas encore le montant de la facture finale. Mais nous aimerions bien recevoir de l'aide de la part d'organisations internationales".

L.J: Lesquelles?

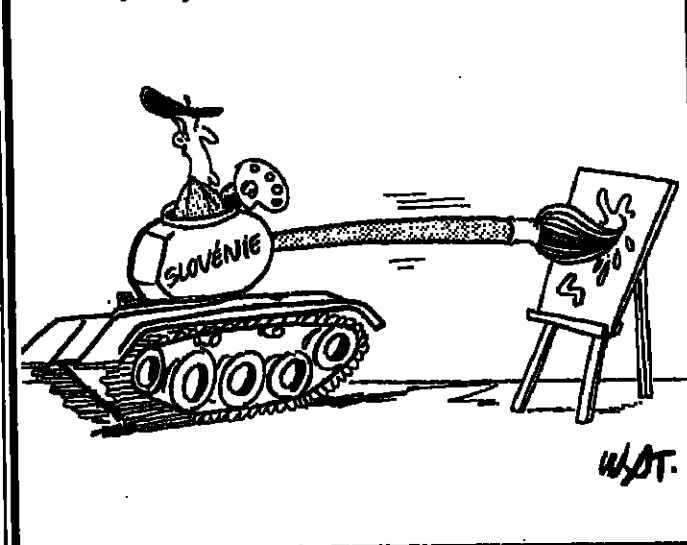
A.A.B: "N'importe quelle organisation de bienfaisance. Pourquoi pas la Croix Rouge française?"

L.J: Une rumeur court, selon laquelle les précédentes vagues de vaccinations n'auraient pas été efficaces?

A.A.B: "Il y a beaucoup de rumeurs infondées qui ne reposent sur aucune base de vérité. Je peux vous assurer que les vaccins qui ont précédemment été utilisés étaient d'une efficacité la

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Peintre slovène au Centre culturel français



■ L'OLP a déclaré dimanche à Tunis que la responsabilité du mouvement extrémiste israélien kakh "n'est pas à exclure" dans l'accident dû à l'effondrement du toit d'un café de Jérusalem-Est. Bilan: 23 morts et 22 blessés.

Télex: Jordanie. Téléx: Jordanie

**DETTE** - Les principaux Etats créanciers du Club de Paris ont décidé, vendredi dernier, le rééchelonnement de la dette jordanienne et des ses intérêts dus pour la période 1991-93. Dans une déclaration à l'agence Petra, Ziad Fariz, ministre du Plan, a déclaré que les représentants des 14 Etats ont rendu hommage aux efforts de la Jordanie pour faire face aux effets de la crise du Golfe. La dette extérieure de la Jordanie est estimée à 7 milliards de dollars, dont 5,5 sont dus au Club de Paris et 1,5 au club de Londres.

**PRET** - Le royaume est en passe d'obtenir un prêt de 20 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis, en vue d'acheter 115.000 tonnes de viande à des fournisseurs américains. L'accord a été signé lundi par le ministre des Finances par intérim, Abdul Karim al Kabarti et l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis en Jordanie, Roger Harrison.

**VOYAGE** - Le roi Hussein entame la semaine prochaine un voyage à l'étranger, dont les principales étapes seront la France, l'Allemagne, les Etats-Unis, le Canada, et l'Islande. Le roi va rencontrer les dirigeants des ces pays. Au centre des discussions: les relations bilatérales et bien sûr, le processus de paix au moyen-orient.

**NEIGE** - 20 millions de JD! Telle est la première estimation officielle des dégâts causés par la neige cet hiver en Jordanie. Le ministère des travaux publics aurait besoin de 11 à 14 millions de JD pour réparer et reconstruire les routes du royaume. Les besoins du ministère de l'Energie pour rétablir les lignes électriques endommagées sont évalués à 2 millions de JD. Ces estimations ne comprennent pas encore les pertes dans l'agriculture et l'industrie. Dans les jours qui viennent, la facture des cinq orages consécutifs qui ont touché cet hiver la Jordanie risque d'augmenter sensiblement.

**FRONTIERE** - Un nouveau poste-frontière a été inauguré dimanche à Trébil, à la Frontière irako-jordanienne, unique voie d'accès pour les irakiens au monde extérieur, depuis l'entrée en vigueur de l'embargo. Situé à 570 km à l'ouest de Bagdad, le poste, dont une partie a été mise en service, couvrira, une fois terminé, environ 14.000 hectares.



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plus totale.

Des tests ont été faits en laboratoire. 88% d'efficacité pour des vaccins, c'est un chiffre qui est internationalement reconnu. C'est un des pourcentages les plus élevés dans le monde. Je le répète, ces rumeurs ne sont pas correctes.

Maintenant, il est vrai que certains enfants avaient été vaccinés de manière incomplète, ou même pas du tout. Dans ce cas, le risque de Polio est 8 fois plus élevé que pour les autres qui ont été normalement vaccinés. Cela a été confirmé par des études de l'OMS et du CDC.

L.J.: La vaccination est-elle une obligation en Jordanie?

A.A.B.: "Jusqu'à maintenant c'était ouvert à tout le monde. Le ministère de la Santé a toujours fait en sorte que les hôpitaux soient fournis. En 1990, 92% de nos enfants ont été vaccinés avec les doses indiquées. Maintenant, nous allons en faire une loi. Nous nous apprêtons à faire une proposition au gouvernement. Tout comme l'école, la vaccination sera obligatoire. Ce sera le cas pour la Polio, mais aussi pour le triple vaccin, qui comprend la diphtérie, le tétanos et la coqueluche, mais aussi pour la rougeole".

L.J.: Deux enfants morts, c'est toujours deux de trop, bien sûr?

A.A.B.: "...Des enfants meurent aussi de la grippe. C'est arrivé en Angleterre il y a quelques années..."

L.J.: Votre verdict vis-à-vis de la campagne jordanienne?

A.A.B.: "Nous sommes satisfaits des actions menées par le ministère et ses équipes. Nous sommes contents du retour que nous avons eu de la part des Jordaniens. Et nous remercions les médias et tous ceux qui nous ont aidé pour mener à bien cette campagne".

Propos recueillis par Francis Mazoyer

Dr Fathieh Saudi:

## 'Rendons la vaccination pour la polio obligatoire'

La présidente de l'Association médicale jordano-française se félicite de la "responsabilité collective" des Jordaniens



Docteur Saudi: "La panique? Une réaction normale"

Le temps de faire des études épidémiologiques, d'apporter la preuve qu'il s'agit vraiment de la polio, de prendre les décisions politiques conséquentes. Aussi d'entrer en contact avec l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé, d'acheminer les vaccins... "Une telle campagne, c'est un affolement général, nous devons être prêts à répondre tout de suite à la demande".

La Jordanie peut revendiquer la plus haute couverture vaccinale de tous les pays arabes: environ 95% de la population. Les récents événements paraissent d'autant plus inattendus. Question inévitable: où est la faille? Pourquoi une telle manifestation de la polio en Jordanie? "La vaccination n'empêche pas un début d'épidémie, cela dépend de plusieurs facteurs. Des conditions d'hygiène défectueuses, ou une chaîne du froid non respectée peuvent être à l'origine du problème. En plus, ce n'est pas évident de la maintenir, surtout

dans la vallée du Jourdain. Les vaccins se conservent entre +2 et +8 degrés, le frigo doit donc avoir un thermomètre mais aussi un indicateur de couleur". Dans ces régions, les populations souvent défavorisées, représentent les enfants de moins de cinq ans. Par précaution le ministère de la Santé a décidé de refaire leurs vaccins. "La maladie se déclare deux fois plus souvent chez les garçons que chez les filles". Et les plus grands? "Les adolescents et les adultes peuvent être touchés parce qu'ils omettent de continuer la chaîne de la vaccination".

Pour le docteur Saudi, les Jordaniens ont pris conscience de la gravité d'un tel phénomène. "C'est le moment de rendre la vaccination obligatoire, je veux dire d'en faire une loi. Pour ne plus se réveiller un matin avec un affolement de ce type là". F.M.

### L'EDITO

#### 8 mars: les questions

POURQUOI n'avons-nous pas encore de femme-juge en Jordanie? D'après certains juristes, aucune loi n'interdit à la femme jordanienne de devenir magistrat. "Mais ce n'est pas dans nos habitudes".

En cherchant un peu, j'ai appris qu'il y a dix ans, une avocate avait essayé de déposer sa candidature. Elle s'est heurtée à un mur. A un veto de la part de "l'establishment" judiciaire. En août 1990, une femme fonctionnaire voulait s'inscrire au concours d'admission de l'Institut des juges. Elle a réussi brillamment. Mais elle n'est pas encore parvenue à franchir la porte de l'Institut.

Selon certains experts, une femme-juge dispose de certaines qualités, utiles pour évaluer des cas particuliers. Des affaires relatives à la maternité, au divorce, au statut de la femme en général. Malheureusement, la magistrature n'est pas le seul secteur qui refuse ses droits à la femme jordanienne.

Selon la Charia, une femme ne peut toujours pas quitter le territoire national sans l'autorisation écrite de son tuteur. Le père, le mari, le frère... "Le seul responsable reconnu dans le couple est l'homme" dit-on.

Numériquement, les femmes représentent la moitié de notre société. C'est loin d'être le cas dans la vie économique. Les femmes? Ce sont seulement 15% des forces actives. Pire, en 89, aucune femme n'a été élue à la chambre des députés. Autre mauvais souvenir: en 1984, la première et la seule femme qui ait jamais osé se présenter aux élections municipales a essuyé un échec retentissant. Plus étonnant encore: les autres femmes ont montré une farouche opposition à son accession au poste de premier magistrat d'une ville.

Par ailleurs, et comme pour alourdir la liste des absences, aucune femme n'a encore été élue à la présidence d'un syndicat ouvrier ou d'une association professionnelle. A quelques exceptions près, la présence féminine ne fait pas bon ménage avec les instances représentatives (Sénat, Ministères).

Pourquoi? A qui la faute? Comment améliorer le statut des personnes du sexe féminin? Autant de questions qui devront être posées le 8 mars prochain. Sans réponses concluantes, ce ne sera pas vraiment la journée internationale de la femme.

Algerie bis - Plus de mille étudiants interpellés depuis le début du mouvement de protestation islamique dans les universités algériennes. Trois cent soixante membres du mouvement universitaire par le respect du choix populaire (MUDCP).

URKUD - Le ministre israélien de la Défense, Yitzhak Rabin, appuyé par le Premier ministre, Yitzhak Shamir, a ravi dimanche la place de numéro un du Likoud (droite nationaliste au pouvoir), au ministre des Affaires étrangères, David Levy. Le ministre central de cette formation a désigné M. Arens comme le tête de liste.

Yitzhak Shamir, lors d'une réunion chargée de définir l'ordre de ses candidats aux législatives du 23 juin.

TERRITOIRES - Un Palestinien a été tué et 25 blessés dimanche, lors de la manifestation d'une manifestation à Rafah, dans le sud de la bande de Gaza occupée. L'armée israélienne a ouvert le feu en direction de centaines de manifestants qui lançaient des pierres et des bouteilles incendiaires, en réaction à la mort, la veille, de deux autres Palestiniens, tués par des tirs de snipers.

LIBYRE - La Libye accuse que ses deux présidents agents réclamés par les Etats-Unis et Washington sont "jugés en sol neutre". C'est le ministre libyen des Affaires étrangères, Ibrahim al-Bachari, qui l'a annoncé dimanche au Caire. Une proposition intervient alors que le Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies, appuyé, selon des sources libyennes, par l'Organisation des Etats arabes, a sanctionné la Libye pour son refus de coopérer avec les enquêteurs internationaux, sur les attentats contre deux avions de lignes occidentales. Ceux-ci ont fait 440 morts au total.

### Réformes

## Lifting politique en Arabie Saoudite

Le royaume voisin se dote d'un "conseil consultatif" et d'une "loi fondamentale"

LA CREATION dimanche d'un "conseil consultatif" en Arabie Saoudite constitue une évolution politique importante pour l'Etat le plus influent du Golfe. Cette réforme ne devrait toutefois pas signifier un changement fondamental du système du royaume, basé sur la stricte application de la loi coranique.

Une "loi fondamentale du pouvoir", assimilée à une constitution, la première du royaume depuis sa création en 1932, a également été promulguée par décret royal. Elle stipule que les lois dans le pays s'inspirent du Coran et de la Sunna (la tradition des prophètes du royaume). Un autre décret a été publié, concernant l'organisation des provinces du royaume. Chaque province, dirigée par un "émir avec rang de ministre" aura à gérer les affaires de sa région avec la participation des citoyens.

#### 60 membres

Annoncée depuis plusieurs mois par le roi Fahd, la création du "conseil consultatif", baptisé Majlis ul-Choura et qui compte 60 membres, a été officiellement adoptée, samedi soir à Ryad par le conseil des ministres, puis annoncée dimanche par un décret royal. Selon ce texte, les membres du conseil, son président et son secrétaire général "sont nommés par le roi".

Le conseil, qui doit être créé "dans un délai maximum de six mois", a le droit de "discuter la politique générale de l'Etat, aussi

bien au plan interne qu'externe". D'un mandat renouvelable de quatre ans, il prend ses décisions à la majorité. La loi fondamentale autorise le roi à dissoudre le conseil.

Cette toute nouvelle instance soumet ses décisions au Premier ministre pour les faire entrer en vigueur. En cas de divergence avec le gouvernement, le décret prévoit "l'intervention du roi pour les départager".

L'instauration de ce "conseil consultatif" ne constitue pas une surprise. En novembre 90, en pleine crise du Golfe, le roi Fahd avait déjà fait état de sa prochaine création, ainsi que de plusieurs réformes comme la promulgation d'une "loi fondamentale".

Inspirée de la loi coranique (charia), la "loi fondamentale" stipule que le pouvoir en Arabie Saoudite est "fondé sur la justice, la consultation et l'égalité". Et sur la "défense des droits de l'homme". La loi ajoute que le

pays, doté d'un régime "monarchique", est un "Etat arabe et islamique".

Ces réformes, les premières du genre dans le pays avaient été ouvertement envisagées pendant la crise du Golfe. Les américains avaient à l'époque fait part de leur soutien, alors que des centaines de milliers de soldats non-musulmans se trouvaient sur le sol saoudien. Un déploiement de force et une influence sévèrement critiqués par nombre de mouvements islamistes. ■



### Peinture au CCF France Slana n'aime que l'aimable

Noël Favrellère, directeur du Centre culturel français d'Amman rencontre Slana à Lubjana. Il devient disciple de ce peintre slovène également connu en France. Il l'invite au CCF. D'un coup de pinceau, il fait son portrait.

La réputation du peintre slovène France Slana, est due pour beaucoup à ses aquarelles pour lesquelles il a su développer une technique peu orthodoxe, disons hautement individualiste. Celle-ci lui permet de travailler sur des formats relativement importants, avec autant d'intensité qu'on peut en obtenir avec de la peinture à l'huile.

Slana suit, selon le thème ou l'humeur du jour, exploite tout à tour ou la force ou la délicatesse de cette technique. Cela le fait passer de lavis transparents, à des épaisseurs pour mieux structurer, ou encore à des grattages à la plume, qui nous apparaissent comme des coups de crayon. Car le liquide coloré fonce et devient presque noir dans les blessures du pinceau. Il sait aussi utiliser la transparence de l'aquarelle en superposant des lavis pour créer des densités, des profondeurs. Mais aucune sophistication n'est

en jeu. Il a pour seul souci de créer une atmosphère par la couleur et, devant certaines marines, on est ravi de découvrir tant de bleus.

Ses thèmes sont traditionnels, voire éternels. C'est la mer, les fleurs, les femmes, les animaux... Cependant sa peinture est loin d'être naïve, comme on fait semblant de le croire ceux qui ne sont intéressés que par "l'art éphémère" des modes qui se suivent et ne se ressemblent que dans l'insignifiance. Mais l'homme, lui, est naïf: il a l'âme sincère et ses goûts sont simples. Sa peinture n'a d'autre prétention que d'être vue. Elle ne sait dire que: "Regardez-moi!"

Son thème de prédilection semble bien être le bouquet pour lequel il a mis au point une calligraphie personnelle reconnaissable au premier coup d'œil. Ce qui n'empêche pas une inépuisable diversité d'exécution. C'est sans doute pour communiquer plus rapidement, plus claire-

#### A VOIR...

CINE - "Volpene", lundi 9 mars au CCF, de Maurice Tournier, avec Louis Jourvet, Harry Baur, Charles Dullin.

CONFERENCE - Mercredi 11 mars au CCF, "Architectures profanes en terre d'Islam". Par Noël Favrellère.

ment, plus sincèrement, que Sana affectionne l'aquarelle. Car elle s'exécute plus vite et se lit plus vite que la peinture à l'huile. Les couleurs et les formes deviennent émotives et les émotions créent formes et couleurs. Comme le chat d'Alice au pays des merveilles, qui disparaît en ne laissant flotter qu'un sourire. Les sujets choisis par le peintre France Slana s'évanouissent pour ne laisser que des traces souriantes. La vision de Slana n'est jamais aigre: il n'aime que l'aimable.

Les plus grands peintres de ce siècle, de Cézanne à Josphe Johns, en passant par les fauves, les cubistes, les expressionnistes, les surréalistes, ont pratiqué l'aquarelle. Aujourd'hui, on assiste à un regain d'intérêt pour ce type de peinture dont l'avenir promet d'être aussi riche que varié.

Les peintres-lapins qui courent en tous sens pour rester en tête dans la quête du sensationnel vont peut-être se risquer à cette technique exigeante, qui ne souffre pas la tricherie. Quant à Slana, peintre-tortue, qui fait son bonhomme de chemin en tournant le dos aux modes éphémères, il est déjà arrivé. Et si vous me demandez pourquoi j'aime la peinture de France Slana, demandez-moi pourquoi aussi pourquoi j'aime le ciel des nuits de mai. ■

N.F. L'exposition France Slana, au CCF, jusqu'au Samedi 14 mars. Tél/637.009

### Télévision, France

AGRICULTURE - Le Salon international de l'Agriculture (SIA), qui se tient pour une semaine à Paris, a été inauguré dimanche matin par Louis Mermaz, ministre français de l'Agriculture. Les organisateurs du salon attendent 400.000 visiteurs. Plusieurs ministres européens et du maghreb ont répondu à l'invitation de M. Mermaz, notamment le ministre portugais Amaro Dos Santos, dont le pays assure la présidence de la CEE, et John Walsh, ministre de l'Agriculture irlandais. Le salon ferme ses portes dimanche prochain.

EUROPE - François Mitterrand lance un appel pour la mise en place rapide des structures de la confédération européenne. "Nous devons vite concevoir cette structure permanente où les pays de la Communauté européenne, à égalité avec les autres Etats de l'Europe, bâtiront l'Europe future" a déclaré le président français, samedi dernier, lors d'un colloque international sur "les tribus ou l'Europe".

SONDAGE - Pour 61% des français, le président de la république doit partir, si l'opposition gagne les élections législatives de 1993, selon un sondage Sofres publié lundi par le quotidien Le Figaro (droite). Dans ce cas de figure, 29% des personnes interrogées souhaitent que François Mitterrand reste à l'Elysée.

KOUCHNER - "Il faudra un jour faire un Etat pour les Kurdes", a déclaré dimanche à Paris le secrétaire d'Etat à l'Action humanitaire, Bernard Kouchner. "Malheureusement, nous n'avons pas mené la guerre assez loin au nom des droits de l'homme à l'intérieur de l'Irak" a-t-il ajouté.

MEURTRES - Un homme de 22 ans, déjà condamné pour des attentats à la poudre et qualifié de psychopathe pervers par les psychiatres, a avoué vendredi dernier, le meurtre de trois jeunes femmes dans la région de Longwy (Meurthe et Moselle). Vincenzo Aiutino, de nationalité italienne, a reconnu les meurtres à coups de barres de fer, après avoir tenté de violer trois femmes; disparues à proximité d'un supermarché de Mont-Saint-Martin (Meurthe et Moselle).

DECES - L'actrice Marie Dédé, 79 ans, qui avait notamment connu la célébrité en 1942 dans le film de Marcel Carné, "Les visiteurs du Soir" est décédée dimanche à l'hôpital à Paris. L'actrice avait été blessée la veille dans l'incendie d'une cuisine alors qu'elle se trouvait chez des amis. Hospitalisée, elle a succombé le lendemain à un malaise cardiaque.

A vos marques...

## Les clés du Ramadan

La période de jeûne de 30 jours commence: Mode d'emploi

Ramadan, c'est le mois sacré pour les musulmans. C'est le mois de la prière, du recueillement et surtout du jeûne. Au fil des années, le Ramadan a tissé ses habitudes, ses rites et ses caractères.

Au début de la semaine, le Premier ministre, Zeld ben Shaker a publié un communiqué officiel annonçant les nouveaux horaires de travail dans les établissements publics: de 9h30 le matin; au lieu de 8h00, jusqu'à 14h00. Pour les fonctionnaires, mais aussi pour la majorité du peuple, la journée commence tard, et souvent, se termine assez tôt, afin de pouvoir préparer le repas "d'El-Ifar". Celui-ci a lieu vers six heures moins le quart le soir. Et ce après une longue journée de jeûne.

En fait, toutes les habitudes de la vie quotidiennes sont bouleversées. Cette année, les consignes du Premier ministre sont strictes: tout le monde doit s'abstenir de manger, de boire ou

de fumer. Même si "l'on ne fait pas Ramadan". Bien sûr, à l'exception du soir, les restaurants sont fermés. Les magasins qui vendent de l'alcool doivent s'abstenir pendant un mois.

#### Menu du soir

A l'origine, Ramadan, c'est le mois où le Coran est "descendu" en présence du prophète Mahomet (Sic). Au cours de cette période, il faut dompter l'âme et l'habiller aux sacrifices. Il n'empêche, parmi les figures du Ramadan, les plats se trouvent en bonne place. Qamar el-dine, sorte de pâte d'abricot, est une de ces spécialités. On la dissout dans l'eau et on boit le tout au cours de "l'Ifar". Les dattes se mangent juste après la prière du soir. Le "Kataif" est un gâteau que l'on trouve tous les soirs sur la table de "l'Ifar". C'est une sorte de petite crêpe fourrée au fromage, aux noix ou à la crème. Peu avant "l'Ifar", tout le monde s'énervé. Les voitures, les gens

aux arrêts de bus. Objectif: rentrer chez soi pour profiter du moment privilégié de la journée. Vers 18h00, les rues sont vides. C'est le calme plat. Tous les Jordaniens attendent le cri du muezzin pour pouvoir manger. C'est l'heure du repas traditionnel, occasion privilégiée pour se retrouver en famille.

Vers 20h30, les rues reprennent vie, les gens sortent, les magasins rouvrent. Les soirées se prolongent jusqu'à tard dans la nuit. Pour les plus pantouflards, la télévision rallonge ses programmes. Après "l'Ifar", le "Souhour" arrive, vers 4h00 du matin. Le réveil est difficile. Un joueur de tambour, le "moussaharati", vient de passer dans les rues en scandant des slogans religieux. A cette heure, il s'agit de s'apprêter pour la longue journée du jeûne. Une journée de prière et de recueillement. Les musulmans vont vivre à ce rythme pendant trente jours.

Suleiman Sweiss

RAMADAN



# AROUND TOWN

**Congratulations!!**  
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....  
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

● A four-member British team from the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) visited Jordan from 23-28 February. The team was led by Mr Stephen Chard, head of the West and North Africa and the Mediterranean Department at the ODA. The team held talks with Jordanian officials from the Ministry of Planning and other government departments aimed at discussing ongoing and future UK-funded technical and capital assistance projects in Jordan.

The British government has been supporting the Ministry of Education's Computers in Education project with the installation of 2,000 computers in secondary schools. It has also been supporting Jordanian non-governmental organizations in their worthwhile efforts.

A donation of JD 13,500 was made earlier this year to the Queen Alia Fund towards the equipping of a community center in the south. Other donations were made towards the equipping of a kindergarten in the Bani Hamida area as well as support to the Mabbarat Um Al Hussein orphanage projects.

● Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator Gareth Evans, announced that his government has pledged AS 100,000 in aid to Jordan and Lebanon in the wake of the devastation caused by recent snowstorms.

The emergency assistance fund was channeled through the Australian branch of CARE International. Jordan's share will amount to AS 50,000 (about \$35,000) and will be used to provide essential foodstuffs and supplies through cooperating organizations. The money was formally donated to the Crown Prince's Office yesterday by CARE Australian representative, Ms Leone Shymoniak.

● A Japanese delegation arrived in Amman last Sunday on a two-week tour of the Middle East to conduct studies of environmental problems in the region. The visit comes as a result of a Japanese offer during the multilateral talks in Moscow.

The seven-member delegation included officials from the foreign, trade and industry and environment Japanese ministries in addition to members of non-governmental organizations such as The Japanese International Corporation Agency. The team is expected to tour the West Bank at the end of its visit to Jordan.

● In response to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's plea to help Tafilah residents who were hard-hit by the last snow blizzard, the Middle East Council of Churches and the Jordan Caritas Society organized a humanitarian effort in sending aids to the beleaguered families by delivering two truckloads of food, blankets and clothes last Tuesday.



● Royal Jordanian President and Chief Executive Mr Mohammad Jamal Balfaz inaugurated at the Amman Plaza Hotel the 27th Annual Marketing Conference of the airline. The conference was designed to discuss, among other things, RJ's routes and marketing plans. Participants included area managers and representatives from 41 worldwide locations. The conference was chaired by the airlines Senior Vice-President of Marketing and Services, Mr Aqel Biltaji.



● The Amman Marriott Hotel, celebrating its tenth anniversary, held a reception last week for those who were born in the leap year, Al Amal and Al Khaldi hospitals, chosen at random, were visited to congratulate the mothers who gave birth on the 29th of February. The reception was attended by doctors, nurses and the mothers of these infants.

Also attending were those who were born on that particular date and filled out the inscriptions circulated by the hotel earlier in the month. At the end of the celebration, prizes were distributed to participants and invited guests, who totalled 40.

## Lufthansa Airlines: Setting new standards

Lufthansa German Airlines will be setting new standards for international air travel with substantially more comfort, hospitality and entertainment aboard its long-haul flights. The new service will commence when the new 1992 summer timetable is put into effect.

The new program included a refurbishing of the interior of the entire fleet of the Boeing 747, with first class now being in the upper deck. As for space, more room has been given to passengers travelling first class by reducing the number of seats from 21 to 12, while business class seats went down from eight to seven maximum.

The new facilities will enable passengers to have their choice of 16 different audio programs and dishes, not to mention different buffet snacks, sandwiches and fruits to go in-between.

Speaking at the introduction of the new international product in Frankfurt, Dr Adrian Von Doernberg, a member of the Lufthansa executive board, commented: "Lufthansa intends, in the current climate of sharper competition, to retain its leading position among the best and best-liked airlines in the world."



## Sri Lankan musician invents 'pot' music!

By Bede Perera  
in Colombo  
Special to The Star

AS A world-renowned German jazz team played to a packed house at Colombo's luxurious Hilton Hotel recently, a "Ghandi look-alike" Sri Lankan youngster won the hearts of all those present with his musical accompaniment on clay pots. He was none other than 29-year-old Arjuna Krishnarane, originating from Kandy and working full time as a copywriter in a Colombo advertising agency.

Also working sometimes as a freelance journalist and at other times as a producer of radio programs, he gets his artistic satisfaction in his spare time, when he plays what is known in India as "Ghatum". Besides this, he plays Indian drums known as "Thammattam", congas, chimes, bells, tymbals and Thavil.

Better known as Krishna in the Colombo music circle, he is an old boy of Kingswood College, Kandy. When he was a child, he said he was keen to study music, but his parents did not encourage him.

Later, he was sent to India to study journalism. While studying there, he watched with awe and wonder at the performances of India's masters of music such as Ravi Shankar, Allah Rakka and Hariprasad Chaurasia. "After seeing the world's best Ghatum maestro, T.H. Vinayakaran, in concert I really wanted to play Ghatum like him and to one day be a very good player myself," he said.

Krishna related the story, which pulled at his artistic heartstrings: "One day at a friend's place while we were singing, I saw an ordinary clay pot in a corner. I played on it and realized to my great astonishment the potential of this ordinary

clay pot. Then I bought one myself and played from memory that I had heard before. My friends wanted to hear me playing on the pots."

After this interesting incident, he met and teamed up with what he described were the "brilliant" young musicians Suresh, Huma and D.K. "They are all out to experiment," he said. "What we play now is more of a fusion kind of music. Last year we gave five concerts, and the audience response was tremendous. We are happy."

He confessed: "I am a self-taught Ghatum player. To tell you the truth, I have never even touched the original Ghatum. I am in fact waiting to play on an original. I have no guru, although I play cassettes and I listen to Vinayakaran and I try to do the more I feel smaller... and smaller... and smaller. Vinayakaran is brilliant, it will take years for me to come near him."

Krishna confessed that he would like very much to go to India and train himself in this beautiful art, or at least the basics of it. When the Hilton's General Manager, Mr Gamini Fernando, heard him playing and saw that the audience should be for encore after encore, he offered to pay 10,000 Sri Lankan rupees as part of the expenses for Krishna to train in India.

Krishna mused, "If another well-wisher were to provide me with the balance, it would enable me to go to Madras for a short period of three weeks under a renowned guru there. That would be my life's greatest gift." He may well be on his way, for the whole learning process costs only 40,000 rupees, and 10,000 has already been pledged. Are there any magnanimous art lovers out there? ■

## Agenda

### Exhibitions

■ At the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), in cooperation with the American Cultural Center, there will be a display of a collection of 51 color photographs that symbolize every American state and the District of Columbia. The exhibition is entitled "Images from Home: A Photographic Collection." The exhibit will open on Sunday 8 March at 8:30 pm.

■ At the Spanish Cultural Center, the art exhibition of artists Amal Taha, Maha Abu Ghubab and Fatima Al Helo will still be open to the public until the 14th of February.

### Films

■ The Goethe Institute Amman will present the film "Janowski Traumstunde" in German on Saturday 8 March at 4 pm.

■ Also at the Goethe Institute Amman, the film "Land der Schweigen und der Dunkelheit" will be shown on the same day at 8 pm.

By Glenn Plaskin

"CRASH" car! races through blood-splattered emergency room at Washington DC's General Hospital, targeted for a cardiac arrest patient in desperate need of the car's "paddles", electric defibrillation.

"Dr. Stone, E.R. Staff!" But the resident on duty, about to be DC for Hollywood where he hopes to become a plastic surgeon, is missing.

"Where is he?" screams a frenzied nurse.

"It's a radiology working on it," quips Benjamin Stone, a nightmare yuppie in a white lab coat who proceeds to seduce the nurse, while the film lifts off with Stone racing toward L.A. in his second-hand 56 Porsche Speedster (the car is his life), anxious to meet his new boss, a nutty Beverly Hills surgeon played by

Woody Harrelson. Stone passes through Grady, South Carolina, where he narrowly avoids crashing three cows by crashing through a white picket fence. The Porsche is wrecked and the doctor is left with 32 hours of community service in the town's jail.

"And so," says Fox, "fate intervenes. Stone's literally forced off the freeway and imprisoned in a bizarre place." He falls in love with a gorgeous ambulance nurse named Lou (Julie Warner), who jealously vies against Lou's friend, Hank (Cheers' Hank

## Michael J. Fox discusses fate's freeway



Fox (above left) in *Doc Hollywood*: Dr Stone "is a real jerk!"

Woody Harrelson), and is there after a visceral torn between small-town contentment and the pull of the big city.

"His falling in love with Lou is a metaphor for falling in love with the town," says Fox. "At first Stone is exasperated by the hit parade of lower levels of humanity. He's conditioned to believe nobody needs him. Women are just playthings. He has no 'place' in the world."

"Doc," Fox continues, "learns not to worry about his needs being fulfilled, but rather finds fulfillment through fulfilling another's need."

Fox especially favors the poignant scene when his hero yearningly complains that "a guy should have a right to choose his own destiny."

"I love the irony of that line. It's an oxymoron. Although destiny is a thing beyond choice, he just fights it all the way until he finally has an awakening. That's when he starts realizing people in Grady really do need him, and



like him — and that he likes and needs them!

Did Fox himself ever have such an awakening? "Sure," he smiles, remembering the *Back to the Future* 1980s when he was raking in \$35,000 per episode of *Family Ties*, \$2 million for a Pepsi endorsement, and receiv-

ing 20,000 fan letters per week. Arrogant then?

"I may have been brash," he allows, "but I know I was driven. My insecurity never mutated itself into over-confidence. I stayed insecure, thought my success was a fluke, and took on as much work as I could. Then with the stress level so high, I overindulged a little bit."

How? "Pour me about eight beers and talk to me in the morning," he smiles, lapsing into a bachelor's euphoric recall. "I was never into notches in the belt, but going out for the evening was pretty easy to do. Still, there were never 14 girls swinging from the chandeliers into vats of Crisco. That wasn't my scene."

Like his character "Doc," Fox says he was finally "forced off this freeway, this fast track," when he married former *Family* co-star Tracy Pollan in 1988.

"Tracy forced me to look around and find a niche, taught me that fame is fine, but I'm just a person struggling to serve other people like everybody else. My family is much more important than any movie will ever be."

An unlikely candidate for stardom, "Little Mike," as he was nicknamed, grew up in Edmonton, Alberta, ostracized as "the new short kid" during the years his father, Bill, an Army officer, moved the five kids from town to town.

Too small for hockey, his fin-

gers too short for the guitar, Fox finally settled on acting at 16, finding immediate success in small TV roles.

"I laughed when the *Inquirer* called me a 'chain-smoking, beer-guzzling, high school dropout with a criminal record.' Absolutely right. No denial. I had a DWI at 19, smoked, drank and dropped out in 11th grade, moving to L.A. where he found himself \$30,000 in debt and desperate for a job."

It was in 1982 that Fox, like "Doc," experienced a profound crossroads: "I thought a lot about quitting. That was my having a visceral urge to get the hell out! But destiny was keeping me there. Then I got *Family Ties*, and for the next seven years the series thrived."

"I believe in luck. If I had gone back to Canada a month earlier, who knows? I know the sky's been raining blessings, so I have a very hard time moaning about anything," including some critics who believe his film career will fizzle when his boyish looks do.

"I can't change the way I look. I have to remember that the stakes aren't that high. It's only acting. I got a 75-year ride like you got a 75-year ride and I'm going to do the best I can do."

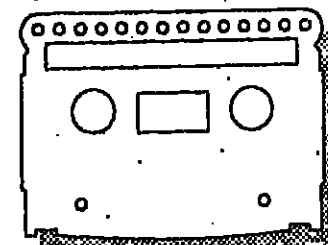
Has Fox perhaps peaked? "It's absolutely possible. So what? It's been an unbelievable ride. If my career lasts another five years I'll be amazed. I can't believe it's lasted nine years."

"But," he notes in parting, thumbing through stacks of paperback plays in his bookshelves "I'm 30, got enough money to hold me, met a beautiful woman, have a beautiful son, I'm in good health, and I love hockey, football, reading and nature. ■"

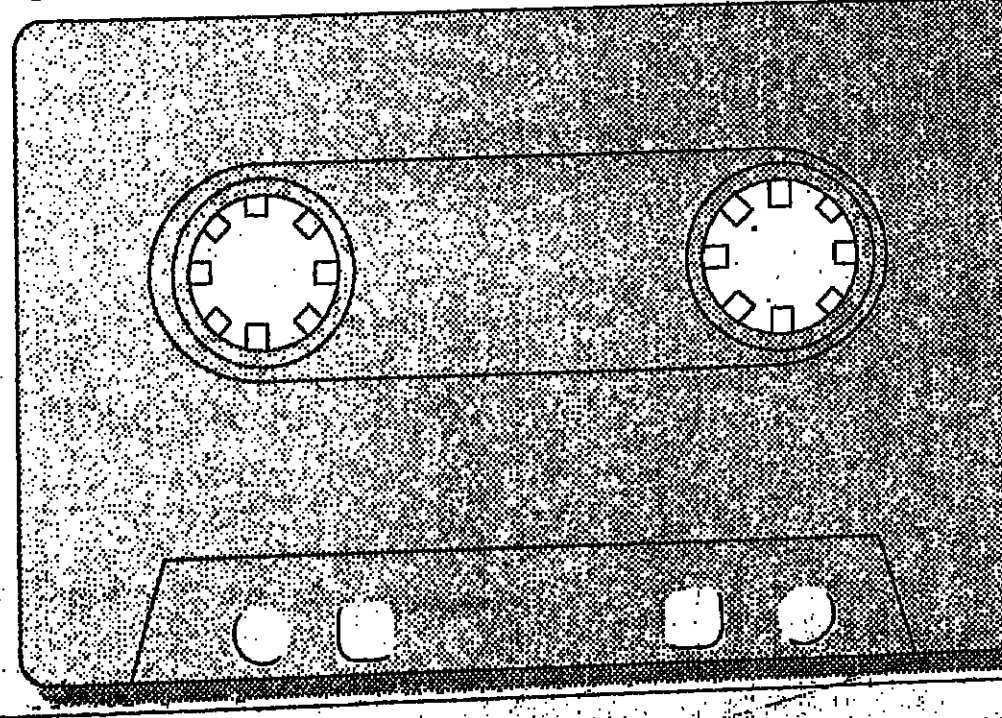
## Tiny new cassette tape

Sony's new Scoopman digital tape recorder will play ultra-compact cassettes about the size of a postage stamp. Here's how it compares with microcassettes and standard cassettes:

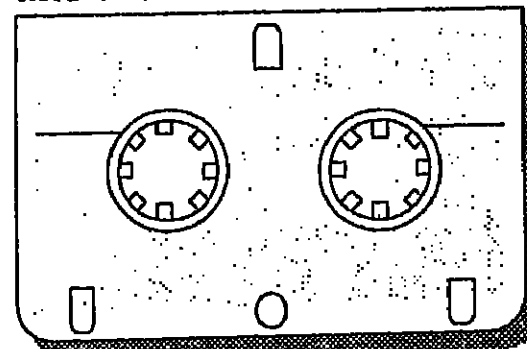
### Ultracompact cassette



### Standard cassette



### Microcassette





## Would You Believe.....

Nearly a million people died in the three short years of the Spanish Civil War.

The average annual salary in major-league baseball in 1991 was a whopping \$850,000, which was up more than 40 percent over the previous year.

Of the 18 U.S. ships either sunk or severely damaged at Pearl Harbor, only three were unable to go to war eventually.

Singer and cult figure Jim Morrison of "The Doors" was only 27 when he died.

U.S. women are almost twice as likely to have their first child out of wedlock as women 20 years ago. In all, about one out of every four births involved unmarried women. That's according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

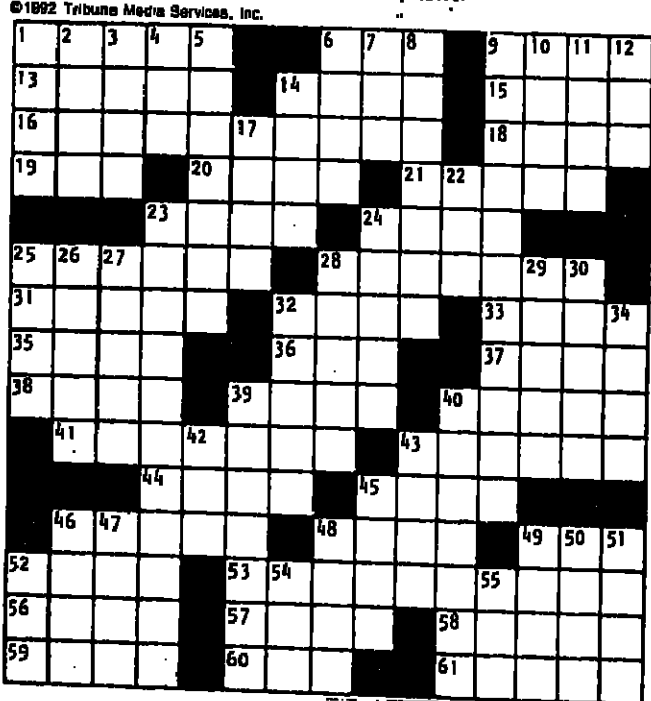
## Solution

DOWN  
1 School group  
6 Chip accompaniment  
9 Complacent  
13 Restriction  
14 Weight allowance  
15 Congressional attendant  
16 Aloof position  
18 Stanley Gardner  
19 For each  
20 Jungle beast  
21 Elaborate  
23 Sedate  
24 Narrated  
25 Land a hand  
28 Clergyman's cap  
31 Speer handle  
32 Judge  
33 Weight  
36 Expression of displeasure

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

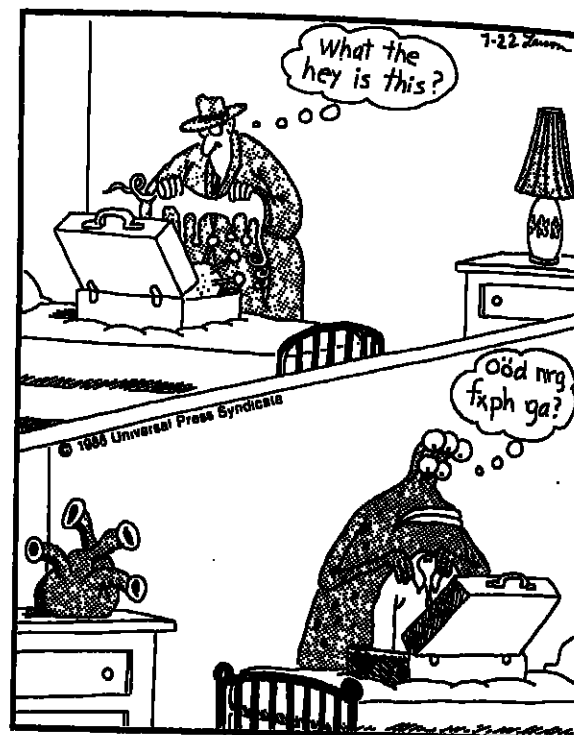
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32 Judge  
33 Weight  
36 Expression of displeasure

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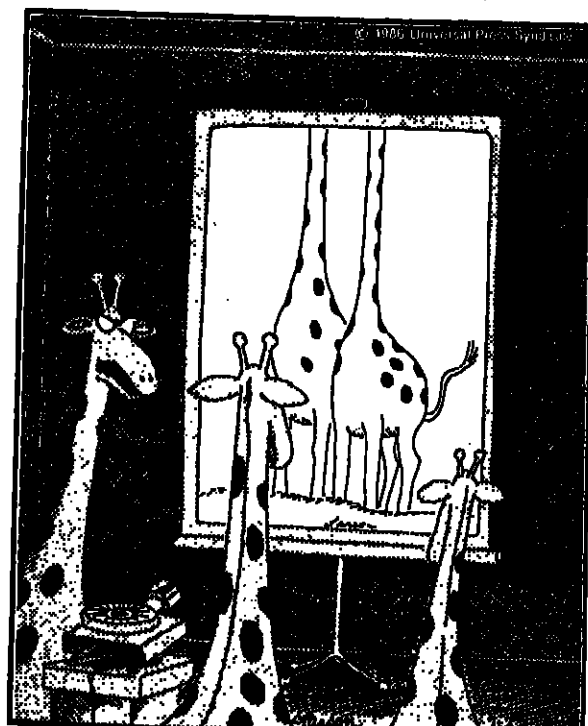


## THE FAR SIDE

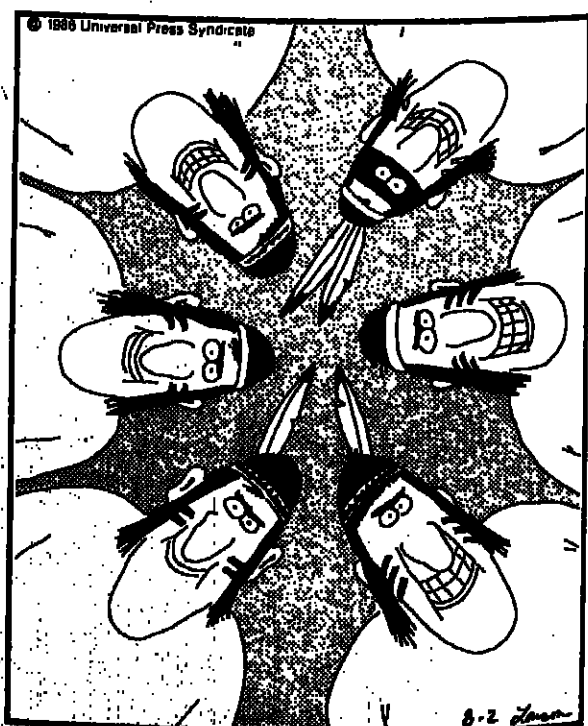
By GARY LARSON



Interplanetary luggage mix-ups



Custer's last view



Custer's last view

5 MARCH 1992

5 MARCH 1992

## ROCK TRACKS

By Stephanie DuBois

Janet Jackson's followup to her 1989 megahit "Rhythm Nation" album isn't expected to hit record stores until next year, says Grammy-winning producer Jimmy "Jam" Harris, who co-produced "Nation" and Jackson's 1986 "Control" disk with his partner, Terry Lewis. They expect to head into the studio with Janet next month. "We will not be doing 'Rhythm Nation II,'" Lewis makes clear. "It's going to be something totally different. We plan on working through most of the spring and summer. 'Control' took six weeks to do and 'Nation' took six months. We figure this album will take somewhere in-between to complete."

The third single off Randy Travis' latest "High Lonesome" album, "Better Class of Losers," was just released last month, but the country star says he's already started working on a new disk. "We like to start working on the next album as soon as we release one," says Travis. He explains that, "We don't record like most people. A lot of folks set aside a month or two to record, but we like to do it as we find the songs we like. We'll jump into the studio for a day, put 'em down and finish them later. It's an odd way to do it. But when you have a schedule as busy as mine, there's not a lot of choice."

Prolific producer Andre Fischer is hotter than ever since producing wife Natalie Cole's hit "Unforgettable." Fischer will hardly have time to pop his head out of the recording studio over the next few months. "I'm getting ready to do Jasmine Guy's next album in March," says Fischer, who just finished new albums for Diane Schuur and Carl Anderson. "In April I'll be working with Jonathan Butler and on a solo album for 'The Whispers' lead singers Walter and Scotty." Also on the agenda, he adds, are tunes for Melissa Manchester and Howard Hewitt.

Being Arsenio Hall's star keyboardist has its up side and its down side, says Starr Parodi. Her debut "Change" album took about a year and a half to do because "The only time I could work on the album was on weekends," explains the instrumentalist/composer-arranger who also scores commercials and TV shows ("L.A. Law," "21 Jump Street," "Wise Guy") through her own company. Parodi says she's finding it even harder to get time off to promote the disk and do concerts. But she figures, "Before I did Arsenio's show I was on tour a lot and trying to juggle being on the road with all the writing and scoring I was doing and it was very hard. Now that I go to one place every day, I can use my time off to focus on other things."

## TOP POP ALBUMS

1. Nevermind, Nirvana, Geffen
2. Time, Love and Tenderness, Michael Bolton, Columbia
3. Dangerous, Michael Jackson, Epic
4. Achtung Baby, U2, Island
5. Too Legit to Quit, Hammer, Capitol
6. Cooleyhighharmony, Boyz II Men, Motown
7. Metallica, Metallica, Elektra
8. Emotions, Mariah Carey, Columbia
9. Use Your Illusion I, Guns N' Roses, Geffen
10. Diamonds and Pearls, Prince and the N.P.G., Paisley Park

## TOP VIDEO RENTALS

1. Terminator 2: Judgment Day, A. Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton, Live Home Video (R-1991)
2. Naked Gun 2 1/2: The Smell of Fear, Leslie Nielsen, Priscilla Presley, Paramount Home Video (PG-13-1991)
3. Dying Young, Julia Roberts, Campbell Scott, FoxVideo (R-1991)
4. Thelma & Louise, Susan Sarandon, Geena Davis, MGM/UA Home Video (R-1991)
5. Point Break, Patrick Swayze, Keanu Reeves, FoxVideo (R-1991)
6. Backdraft, Kurt Russell, Robert De Niro, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1991)
7. City Slickers, Billy Crystal, Daniel Stern, Columbia TriStar Home Video (PG-13-1991)
8. The Silence of the Lambs, Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins, Orion Home Video (R-1991)
9. What About Bob?, Bill Murray, Richard Dreyfuss, Touchstone Home Video (PG-1991)
10. Jungle Fever, Wesley Snipes, Annabella Sciorra, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1991)

## TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

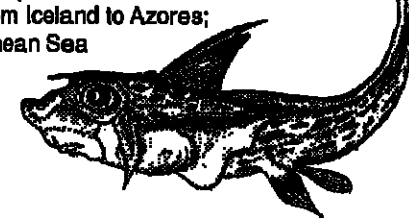
1. Ropin' the Wind, Garth Brooks, Capitol
2. Garth Brooks, Garth Brooks, Capitol
3. No Fences, Garth Brooks, Capitol
4. For My Broken Heart, Reba McEntire, MCA
5. Don't Rock the Jukebox, Alan Jackson, Arista
6. Ten Stralt Hits, George Strait, MCA
7. It's All About to Change, Travis Tritt, Warner Bros.
8. All I Can Be, Collin Raye, Epic
9. Pocket Full Gold, Vince Gill, MCA
10. What Do I Do With Me, Tanya Tucker, Capitol

## Creature feature

### Ratfish

(Chimaera monstrosa)

Home: Deep water of east North Atlantic Ocean, from Iceland to Azores; Mediterranean Sea



Habits: Often seen in one-sex schools; found close to seabed; feeds on starfish, mollusks, crustaceans; in summer, goes into shallower water to breed; lays eggs, each enclosed in a long, tapering case that becomes lodged in seabed; when full-grown, about 5 ft. long

Claim to fame: Large eyes, prominent dorsal fin with spine linked to a poison gland; male has clublike appendage on its head

SOURCE: Detroit Free Press, Macmillan Illustrated Animal Encyclopedia; Research by NANCY ROSS-FLANIGAN

## VIDEOVIEW

By Jay Bobbin

(Ratings for each film begin with an "asterisk" rating — one meaning "poor," four meaning "excellent" — followed by the Motion Picture Association of America rating, and then by a family-viewing guide, the key for which appears below.)

STARTING THIS WEEK: "THELMA AND LOUISE" (MGM/UA, \$94.99): One of last summer's most-discussed films, director Ridley Scott's vivid "road movie" casts Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis as traveling companions with good reasons to leave their respective pasts behind... but that doesn't mean those pasts won't try to follow them, resulting in a controversial outcome. Harvey Keitel and Brad Pitt also are featured. \*\*\* (R: AS, P, V)

## MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle, then strike it off the list. Circling it will show a letter has been used but will leave it visible should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

HAPPY '92! (Sol. 8 letters)

A-Auld Lang Syne; B-Balloons, Best, Bright; C-Champagne, Cold, Confetti, Countdown; D-Date, Drink; F-Friends, Funny, Future; G-Glad, Good times, Greet; H-Hats, Health, Hotel; J-January; K-Kiss; L-Laugh, Luck; M-Memory, Moment; N-Near, New Year, Noisemakers; O-Old times; P-Party, Photos; R-Remember; S-Shout, Social, Snowy, Sparkling; T-Tuxedo; U-Usher in; W-Wild, Wish, Wonder; Y-Yell

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER: LHMINDM

TNEMOMI TTEFNCK  
SMI LUCKYELLHEHI  
RPHOTOSNOWYERAS  
ESOCIALWILDAUMS  
KODEXUTEERGLTPP  
ASEMITDLOTDTUAA  
MEJANUARYLAHFGR  
EMSNOOLLABDDLNK  
SIHATSDNEIRFAEL  
I TOMLNGLAIDAIUAI  
ODUEESWONDERGRN  
NOTIYMPARTYTHHG  
COUNTDOWNGWISHT  
HGEDLOCREMEMBER  
HNI REHSUYNNUFTB

## JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

### Rubber... rubber...

HERE ARE two hands from rubber bridge, they came during the Phillips charity session two weeks ago in the Plaza Hotel:

♠ KQJ65  
♥ A  
♦ J1098  
♣ AQJ

♠ A432  
♥ K9  
♦ KQ76  
♣ 876

♠ 987  
♥ QJ109  
♦ 543  
♣ 1093

♠ 10  
♥ 765432  
♦ 2  
♣ K542

♠ 74  
♥ 5  
♦ J642  
♣ J98765

♠ J106532  
♥ 1072  
♦ 109873  
♣ —

♠ A2  
♥ A9864  
♦ —  
♣ AK10432

♠ KQ98  
♥ KQJ3  
♦ AKQ5  
♣ A

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
10 Double 1♥ Pass  
Pass 24 Pass End

Mrs. Ingrid Phillips was sitting East. Usually the auctions are so simple and brief in rubber bridge, very few conventions, short cuts and fast arrivals.

Watch how did the contract go down: Mrs. Phillips led the diamond Ace and continued the suit. West cashed the diamond honors and played his last diamond which was ruffed by the

spade ten, Ingrid only trump! One down. In rubber bridge you should not let opponent score partial scores. Then Mr. M. Phillips replaced his wife on the East seat:

♠ J106532  
♥ 1072  
♦ 109873  
♣ —

♠ A2  
♥ A9864  
♦ —  
♣ AK10432

♠ KQ98  
♥ KQJ3  
♦ AKQ5  
♣ A

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
5♣ Pass 1♠ Pass 1♥ Pass Double

West made a huge preempt and Mrs. Isabelle Halabi had to double the final contract, wouldn't you double it?

After the spade lead, Mr. Phillips ruffed the heart good for a spade discard from dummy and collected the thirteen tricks. Would you bid the slam freely? I am beginning to like the rubber bridge.



# The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on  
Jordan  
Television  
from  
7-13  
February

## ENGLISH PROGRAM

### SATURDAY

8:30 — America's Funniest Home Videos.  
9:00 — Encounter.  
9:30 — Journeys to Art: A documentary program about Islamic art in Cairo starting with the artistically distinguished mosques and ending up with the wonderful achievements of the Islamic Art Museum.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Feature Film. "A Killer Among Us" Starring Jasmine Guy. Mrs Hopkins does not agree with the Jury's verdict, so she decides to find the murderer herself.

### SUNDAY

8:30 — Comedy Series.  
9:10 — Islam in America: This documentary is about the Muslim community in America, their daily praying and their beliefs.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Law and Order. "The Blue Wall". Prosecutors indict a congressman, the chief of police and a detective in a grand money laundering case.

### MONDAY

8:30 — Land of Hope and Gloria. "The Winds of Change". Sweep Beaumont House and a small strike is in the offing.  
9:10 — Capital City: Max, Hudson and Jimmy cooperate in putting together means of financing a European space adventure.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Gambler: Montana and Hox continue their contact with the army and the Indian chiefs to avoid war. They later uncover a crooked scheme to steal cattle that belongs to the Indians.

### TUESDAY

8:30 — Evening Shade: The coach was arrested during a hunting trip.  
9:10 — Golden Years: The dilemma of the janitor getting younger with time instead of older worries his wife who reminisces about the good old times.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — G.B.H. "Over and Out". Agitation increases and pressure mounts on Michael Murray signalling an end to his political career.

### WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Teech, "In Charns Way". Who will win in the wrestling match in the college?  
9:10 — World of Audubon.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Track of Glory. Starring Phil Maurice: The film tells the story of the life and career of professional American cyclist, Major Taylor, and his marriage.



Les tortues Ninja on Saturday at 6 pm

in addition to his remarkable achievements worldwide.

### THURSDAY

8:30 — Spatz: A Spatz staff celebrates Karen's birthday in such a way that it teases her.  
9:10 — N.B.A. Basketball.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Movie of the week: "April Morning" Starring Tommy Lee Jones: King George reinforces his troops in Massachusetts so as to end the mutiny in the British colonies of the new world. Confrontation between the army and the public causes a lot of bloodshed.

### FRIDAY

8:30 — Lenny: Lenny's friend divorces his wife and marries a much younger one.  
9:10 — Derrick.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Chancer. "History": The real Stephen Crane dies and Stephen — our hero — digs into past history.

## FRENCH PROGRAM

### SAMEDI

6:00 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series.  
6:30 — La famille Pontaine. A series about a family, each time a different story.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Carnet de notes. A classical music program.

### DIMANCHE

5:30 — La maison bleue. A cartoon series.  
5:45 — Santé vision. "L'hépatite". A health program.  
6:10 — L'école des fans. Children sing the songs of their favourite singers.

7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Carnet de notes. A musical program.

### LUNDI

6:00 — Le monde sous-marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau. A documentary program about life in the sea.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — The Weekly Sports Magazine.

### MARDI

6:00 — Bouli. A program for children.  
6:15 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series.  
6:30 — Le chevalier du labyrinthe. A game show program requiring talent and intelligence.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Carnet de notes. A classical music program.

### MERCREDI

6:00 — Musicales. A classical music program.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Carnet de notes. A classical music program.

### JEUDI

6:00 — Montagne. "Haut Allat, la montagne dorée". A documentary program.  
6:30 — Maguy. "Barbouze de vache". A series about Maguy, each time a different story.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Carnet de notes. A classical music program.

### VENREDI

5:30 — Le billard écarlate. A French film.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Fusions. A documentary program about different subjects.

## JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): If you use your imagination, a creative endeavour will be both exciting and lucrative. Singles looking for romance should take advantage of every opportunity to meet new people. Dress to impress!

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): The emphasis this week is on faraway places, job matters and social affairs. Get out and mingle to see what is going on. Continue to watch over your assets. Seek important introductions.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): A speech gives you fresh inspiration and hope. Projects that call on your creative talents promise to be successful. One venture could develop into a second career. Avoid arguments with mate.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): Unexpected good luck in your financial dealings will let you enjoy the pleasures of group activities. New acquaintances could turn into long time friends. Write letters to loved ones far away from home.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): Telling tall tales will only lead to trouble. Stick to the facts to make the most headway. Your social life accelerates. Almost without realizing it, you embark on a new romance.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): Family affairs have top priority now. Discuss ways to upgrade your home. Listen to everyone's ideas. A parent's health could be cause for concern. You may think it best to consult specialists.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): Your relationship with a loved one improves, making it possible for you to plan joint activities. Start new projects. Family members will be glad to help. An old flame can be rekindled.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): A special outing with your family or friends is a source of joy. Share the cooking chores by asking everyone to bring along one dish.

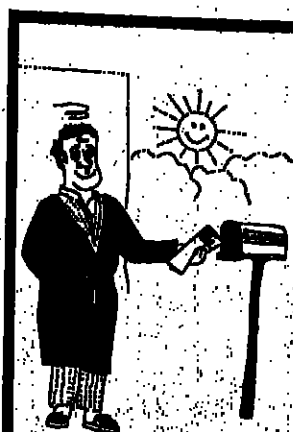
SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Spending time with those who are less fortunate will give you a new perspective. Secret negotiations are helpful for advancing your personal plans. Close friends introduce you to influential people.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): A shortcut lets you conclude a meeting in record time. Work hard to patch up a misunderstanding. A long-distance phone call fills in the missing pieces of a puzzle.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Watch what you say to the neighbours or you could stir up a hornet's nest. Reading the newspaper will trigger some terrific ideas. Spend quality time with offspring, doing what they enjoy.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Be careful when handling someone else's money. You alone will be held responsible. Although domestic squabbles are possible this week, the weekend should bring harmony. Dine out in style.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN love to read and have a real facility for languages. A keen, inventive mind means these children can succeed at almost any profession. Many of these youngsters have difficulty getting to places on time. Wise parents will emphasize the importance of punctuality. Clever and energetic, they can become impatient with people who lack initiative. Although they are not indifferent to other's suffering. They prefer to help those individuals who share their own devotion to work.



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## Diplomatic Corps

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|-----------------------|---------------|
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| Argentina             | 637246/7      |
| Austria               | 674750        |
| Bahrain               | 664148        |
| Brazil                | 675683        |
| Canada                | 818151        |
| Chad                  | 666124        |
| China                 | 661336        |
| Czechoslovakia        | 677889        |
| Dominican Rep.        | 665105        |
| French Consulate Gen. | 622324        |
| German Consulate      | 623443        |
| India                 | 641273/4      |
| Iran                  | 689351        |
| Italy                 | 672331        |
| Japan                 | 816614        |
| Lebanon               | 637262        |
| Libya                 | 639331        |
| Mexico                | 638185        |
| Netherlands           | 630878        |
| Poland                | 672486/7      |
| Romania               | 665107        |
| Saudi Arabia          | 675135/8      |
| Soviet Consulate      | 666118        |
| Spain                 | 641381        |
| Switzerland           | 641431        |
| Taiwan                | 637967/625165 |
| Thailand              | 628911        |
| U.S. Korean           | 666349        |
| U.S. Consulate        | 637164        |
| U.S. Navy             | 677517        |
| U.S. State Dept.      | 666139        |
| U.S. Rep. of China    | 645161        |
| U.S. Embassy          | 637153        |
| U.S. Mission          | 644331/2      |
| U.S. Consul           | 667738        |
| U.S. Arab League      | 814154        |
| U.S. Arab League      | 660745/6      |
| U.S. Arab League      | 622140        |
| U.S. Arab League      | 644251/2      |
| U.S. Arab League      | 669177/9      |
| U.S. Arab League      | 686416/7      |
| U.S. Arab League      | 641076        |
| U.S. Arab League      | 674307/8      |
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| U.S. Arab League      | 644371        |
| U.S. Arab League      | 641158        |
| U.S. Arab League      | 642381        |
| U.S. Arab League      | 668191        |
| U.S. Arab League      | 668171/7      |
| U.S. Arab League      | 669194/8      |
| U.S. Arab League      | 671530        |
| U.S. Arab League      | 629571        |
| U.S. Arab League      | 645312        |

## Rent-a-car

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Shakhsir           | 668958        |
| Al-Jabal           | 606669        |
| Kada               | 665161/665153 |
| Al-Labadi          | 813554        |
| National           | 639197/8      |
| Nexo               | 816792        |
| Petra              | 605501        |
| Rabbit Amman       | 672424        |
| Al-Rimal           | 639861        |
| Al-Samer           | 771707        |
| Satellite          | 625767/621471 |
| Star               | 604904        |
| Tiger              | 671931        |
| Trust              | 673312        |
| Al-Walia           | 674105        |
| Abu Dogga          | 644642/644906 |
| Amin Jarrar (Avis) | 670498        |
| Amman              | 666327        |
| Arabian            | 641350        |
| Avis-Jarrar        | 08/51000      |
| Budget             | 604230        |
| Deas               | 669970        |
| Duran              | 660601        |
| Europcar           | 601350/80     |
| General Services   | 674100        |
| Gulf               | 660902        |

## Airlines

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| Al Air Cargo | 674191/95     |
| Al France    | 641510        |
| Al India     | 666066/782423 |
| Al Lanka     | 65377/651793  |
| Al Saudi     | 625203        |
| Al Wings     | 894484        |
| Al Airlines  | 637806/67028  |
| Al Airlines  | 665909        |
| Al Airlines  | 641430        |
| Al Airlines  | 637380        |
| Al Airlines  | 624363        |
| Al Airlines  | 667028        |
| Al Airlines  | 630011        |
| Al Airlines  | 663606/656616 |
| Al Airlines  | 639295        |
| Al Airlines  | 637827/644036 |
| Al Airlines  | 628596/628598 |
| Al Airlines  | 630879        |
| Al Airlines  | 622175        |
| Al Airlines  | 676624/662236 |
| Al Airlines  | 630144        |
| Al Airlines  | 643831/2      |
| Al Airlines  | 601744        |
| Al Airlines  | 639575/653446 |
| Al Airlines  | 636104        |
| Al Airlines  | 630125/638433 |
| Al Airlines  | 625981        |
| Al Airlines  | 670155        |
| Al Airlines  | 625981        |
| Al Airlines  | 641430/655447 |
| Al Airlines  | 678321        |
| Al Airlines  | 675888        |
| Al Airlines  | 639333        |
| Al Airlines  | 604649        |
| Al Airlines  | 676177        |
| Al Airlines  | 621111        |
| Al Airlines  | 642943        |
| Al Airlines  | 629831        |
| Al Airlines  | 622147        |
| Al Airlines  | 637380        |
| Al Airlines  | 604649        |
| Al Airlines  | 623430        |
| Al Airlines  | 659102        |
| Al Airlines  | 628175        |
| Al Airlines  | 604911        |

Amman Airport (08)53200

## Diary

### Activities

#### Cultural centres

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Royal Cultural Centre   | 661026/7 |
| American Centre Library | 641520   |
| British Council         | 636147/8 |
| French Cultural Centre  | 637009   |
| Gothic Institute        | 641993   |
| Soviet Cultural Centre  | 644049   |
| Spanish Cultural Centre | 639777   |
| Turkish Cultural Centre | 665195   |
| Haya Arts Centre        | 667181/5 |
| Husseini Youth City     | 641793   |
| Y.W.C.A.                | 664251   |
| Y.W.M.A.                | 637111   |
| Amman Mun. Library      | 834555   |
| Univ. of Jordan Library | 834555   |

#### Cinemas

|              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| Concord      | 677420 |
| Rainbow      | 625155 |
| Plaza        | 674111 |
| Philadelphia | 634144 |
| Nijom        | 675571 |

#### Sports Clubs

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Al Hussein Sports City | 667181    |
| Orthodox Club          | 810491    |
| Royal Automobile Club  | 815410    |
| Royal Shooting Club    | 736572    |
| Royal Chess Club       | 673713    |
| Royal Racing Club      | 09-801233 |
| Jordan Bridge Assoc.   | 676990    |

## Rent-a-car

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Shakhsir           | 668958        |
| Al-Jabal           | 606669        |
| Kada               | 665161/665153 |
| Al-Labadi          | 813554        |
| National           | 639197/8      |
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| Deas               | 669970        |
| Duran              | 660601        |
| Europcar           | 601350/80     |
| General Services   | 674100        |
| Gulf               | 660902        |

## Hotels

### Amman

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Crown            | 798181   |
| Philadelphia     | 663100   |
| Marriott         | 660100   |
| Rogency          | 660000   |
| Jerusalem        | 665094   |
| InterContinental | 641361   |
| Ambassador       | 665186   |
| Commerce         | 665181   |
| Middle East      | 667150   |
| Grand Palace     | 661121   |
| Tyche            | 661114   |
| International    | 841712   |
| Sun Rock         | 813801   |
| Alma Gateway     | 08/81000 |
| Amra             | 815071   |
| Plaza            | 674111   |

### Aqaba

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Holiday Int'l | 312426 |
| Miramar       | 314340 |
| Al-Cazar      | 314131 |
| Coral Beach   | 313521 |
| Aquamarina I. | 316250 |
| Aqaba         | 314691 |



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| Brisbane 6           | 61  |
| Canberra 62          | 61  |
| Melbourne 3          | 61  |
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| Brazilia 61          | 55  |
| Bulgaria             | 359 |
| Sofia 2              | 359 |
| Canada               | 1   |
| Ottawa 613           | 1   |
| Chile                | 56  |
| Santiago 2           | 56  |
| Cyprus               | 357 |
| Nicosia 21           | 357 |
| Czechoslovakia       | 42  |
| Prague 2             | 42  |
| Denmark              | 45  |
| Copenhagen (Inner) 1 | 45  |
| Copenhagen (Outer) 2 | 45  |
| Ecuador              | 593 |
| Quito 2              | 593 |
| Egypt                | 20  |
| Cairo 2              | 20  |
| Eire                 | 353 |
| Dublin 1             | 353 |
| Cork 21              | 353 |
| Finland              | 358 |
| Helsinki 0           | 358 |
| France               | 33  |

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Paris 1          | 49  |
| Germany W.       | 49  |
| Bonn 288         | 49  |
| Greece           | 30  |
| Athens/Piraeus 1 | 30  |
| India            | 91  |
| Bangalore 812    | 91  |
| New Delhi 11     | 91  |
| Bombay 22        | 91  |
| Indonesia        | 62  |
| Jakarta 21       | 62  |
| Italy            | 39  |
| Rome 6           | 39  |
| Iraq             | 964 |
| Baghdad 1        | 964 |
| Japan            | 81  |
| Tokyo 3          | 81  |
| Kenya            | 254 |
| Nairobi 2        | 254 |
| Kuwait           | 965 |
| Korea            | 82  |
| Seoul 2          | 82  |
| Libya            | 218 |
| Tripoli 21       | 218 |
| Lebanon          | 961 |
| Beirut 1         | 961 |
| Malaysia         | 60  |
| Kuala Lumpur 3   | 60  |
| Mexico           | 52  |
| Mexico City 5    | 52  |
| Morocco          | 212 |
| Rabat 7          | 212 |
| Netherlands      | 31  |

|     |                         |
|-----|-------------------------|
|     | Amsterdam 20            |
| 49  | Rotterdam 10            |
|     | North Yemen             |
| 30  | Al Bayda 6              |
|     | Hodeidah 3              |
| 91  | Sanaa 5                 |
|     | Taiz 4                  |
|     | Nigeria.....            |
|     | Lagos 1                 |
|     | Norway.....             |
| be- | Oslo 2                  |
|     | Oman.....               |
|     | Pakistan.....           |
| 62  | Karachi 21              |
| 39  | Lahore 42               |
|     | Peshawar 521            |
| 964 | Rawalpindi/Islamabad 51 |
|     | Paraguay.....           |
| 81  | Asuncion 54             |
|     | Portugal.....           |
| 254 | Lima 14                 |
|     | Philippines.....        |
| 965 | Manila 2                |
| 82  | Poland.....             |
|     | Warsaw 22               |
| 218 | Qatar.....              |
|     | Romania.....            |
| 961 | Bucharest 0             |
| 60  | Saudi Arabia            |
|     | Al-Khobar 3             |
| 52  | Al-Madina 4             |
|     | Dammam 3                |
| 212 | Jeddah 2                |
|     | Mecca 2                 |
|     | Riyadh 1                |
| 31- | Spain.....              |
|     | Barcelona 3             |
|     | Madrid 1                |



# THE STAR'S WORK COMPUTING & HIGH TECH NO

## The Affordable Ones



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## A second look at Arabic computer magazines

By Zeid Nasser  
Special to The Star

A COUPLE of weeks ago we started taking a look at Arabic computer magazines available in the local market and we promised to look at the rest. This week we're going to be looking at another three Arabic computer magazines: *Alam Al-Computer*, *Murshid Al-Computer* (Computer Guide) and *Computer & Technology*.

Let's start with *Alam Al-Computer*, which is the most impressive of the bunch. It is published by MultiFax International, also responsible for publishing the famous *PC Magazine*. The magazine is actually *PC World Middle East* magazine and is a bi-lingual monthly. As is expected of a reputable publishing house like MultiFax, the magazine's paper is of excellent quality and its contents arrangement is quite good. The magazine's headquarters are in Egypt, yet it provides proper coverage for the whole region rather than focusing purely on the Egyptian market. The publication basically covers IBM PC & compatibles with some Apple Macintosh coverage, which is reasonable since these sum up the modern computer market in the region.

The fact that the magazine is bilingual gives it an edge over other magazines. However, the Arabic part covers at least twice as many pages as the English part does which is only normal seeing as the magazine's circulation principally covers Egypt, the Arabian Gulf states, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and even the West Bank. The issue I looked at included in-depth hardware reviews of Apple's PowerBook and Al-Nashir Al-Sahafi. The issue was packed with news and included special features on corporate performance of computers in the banking sector (both in Arabic and English), and case studies of certain banks.

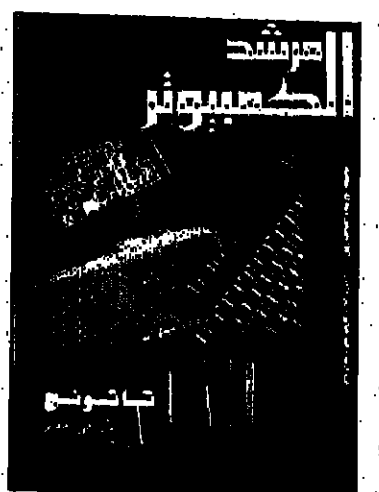
The magazine should appeal to technical people since it includes a programming section and includes articles by specialized professionals on topics like artificial intelligence. *Alam Al-Computer* is a very colorful and varied magazine which is priced

at JD 2.00. The asking price is fair when compared with the quality of the magazine. The one reservation I have against it is that it seems to be directed towards data-processing managers and businessmen more than at-



tempting to satisfy the needs of the simple user. This is evident in the nature of its articles and its emphasis on computers performance in business.

Next up is *Al-Computer & Technology* published by Al-Itihad press based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The first thing that strikes one upon seeing it is how reasonable its price is. It includes around a hundred pages, yet costs JD 1.00! However, it is of less quality than *Alam Al-Computer*. The magazine includes all the usual components of a computer magazine, but doesn't really follow an orga-



nized arrangement of contents. Its news reporting could be much better and it lacks a proper news section. Getting back to its design and layout, it must be said that it's not exactly a pleasure to look at, but it is crammed with helpful and interesting articles. Still, the articles are rather well written and quite comprehensive, but I didn't really like its reviewing system. The magazine includes more variety than others, though, and actually includes a full car section. Or rather, it includes a lot about the latest in automobile technology for car enthusiasts. Having said all this, I must admit that it is very good for its price and should be popular thanks to its variety.

Our third magazine is *Computer Guide* (Murshid Al-Computer). It is published by



Mona Khater Publishing Co. based in Cyprus but generally focuses on the Egyptian computer market. I regret to say that this magazine is the worst of the bunch. It is far too technical in its articles and is far too commercial.

The only advantage it has is its directory of computer companies from all over the regions. It's that commercial. If you're after a magazine which serves as a directory of computer companies and which is full of advertisements and job offers, then you'll love this magazine. It is not very educational or informative com-

## INTERFACE BY ZHID NASSER

### Computer knowledge: More than a bonus

IF YOU'VE tried looking for job advertisements in the newspaper lately you will probably have noticed the increasing number of advertisements requiring computer knowledge or, to quote one advertisement: "Computer knowledge is a bonus". Computer knowledge? What does that specifically mean? Does it mean you should know how to type on a computer keyboard, or does it mean

that you should be familiar with the ins and outs of using a UNIX operating system and making it run a whole organization?

First things first, let's take a look at a typical graduate looking for an office job. At university or college, most students are exposed to computers. However, the nature of their studies is not necessarily related to their obtained computer knowledge. Tell me, for instance, what a student of Architecture would benefit from a Fortran course! Since when has learning to use a computer language become a prerequisite for using software for graphic and architectural design?

The next step is to look for the ideal place to obtain your computer education from. If you survive the experience of being informed about the rather high fees of taking such a course, there's no guarantee that you'll know what kind of a course to go for. Someone told me the tragic story of a graduate who had studied Finance and Banking, who ended up taking a course in Autocad (a course of importance to engineers)! There are many more complaints and it's about time these complaints found a listening ear.

The gap between the technology and the user is widening. The days when children could sit in front of a computer and become computer experts in one single hour are gone. This gap separates the professional computer programmer or hardware expert from the simple secretary, whose responsibilities, at most, will involve the use of a wordprocessor.

Employers should state more clearly their exact needs rather than loosely say "computer knowledge". Furthermore, it is necessary for our educational institutions to understand the needs of the market and accordingly provide the necessary specialized education. It could prevent lots of headaches for job seekers and should cut down on interviewing costs suffered by employers. Everyone will benefit except for those who take advantage of our ignorance. It's about time we put them out of business.



pared to the rest of the magazines on the market. I can only think of one line of defense with regards to *Computer Guide*, if you're extremely interested in the Egyptian computer market then it should be extremely informative. It is priced at JD 1.50 which is not very competitive considering the prices of the better computer magazines on the market.

Attention: This is your last chance to check your computer system for the Michaelangelo virus expected to strike a computer system near you on the 6th of March. Use a virus scanner or contact the Jordan Computer Society at telephone 685236.

# PC

AX 100/50  
AX 200/50  
AX 300/50  
AX 400/50  
AX 500/50

Jordan Computer Center  
SUMMIT HALL  
100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200

Prices: Jordan: JD 2.50, Egypt: LE 1.00, Kuwait: KD 4.00, Saudi Arabia: SR 3.00, Qatar: QR 3.00, UAE: DR 3.00  
Subscriptions: (annual) Jordan JD 12, Arab countries US\$ 75, W. Europe: US\$ 150, USA & Canada US\$ 200.

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